The Valley Patriot

"Congress shall make no law..."

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Edition #227

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King Maker, DePena for the Win!

Lawrence Mayor Depena (2nd from right) significantly increased his influence at The State House by running a slate of candidates who were victorious on election day. Pavel Payano - State Senate, Estela Reyes - State Rep., and Francisco Paulino - State Rep.

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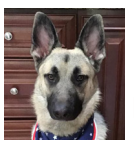

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Valley Patriot of the Month

Groveland's Steve Bird, Combat Medic with the 1st Air Cavalry

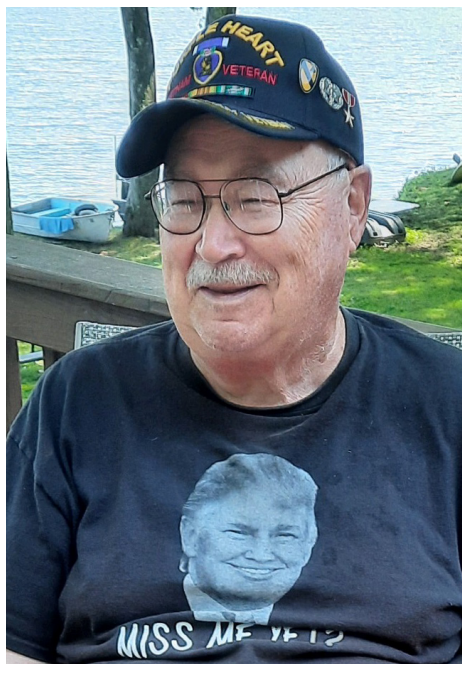
John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Groveland's Steve Bird was conceived by his parents in 1946 at the US Military Academy in West Point, New York. His dad was a US Army Soldier, serving our Nation as an artillery instructor at West Point, teaching future US Army Officers. Steve grew up in Haverhill, Massachusetts, and was a member of Haverhill High's Class of 1965. After high school, he attended Northern Essex Community College. Drafted by the US Army in November of 1967, he was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey for Basic Training, then to Fort Sam Houston, Texas for advanced training as an Army Medic. After completing training, Steve was granted nineteen days leave and sent to Vietnam.

Assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Division, in Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Medical Platoon. Arriving in Vietnam in April of 1968, he was moved from the Medic Platoon to an Infantry unit two weeks later in May, replacing another Medic, a man named Dempsey Parrot, who was killed in action, just a few days before he was scheduled to meet his wife in Hawaii for R&R. (Rest and Relaxation Leave). The Medic he replaced was respected and admired by the platoon, the soldiers, also noted that "Parrot" was replaced by "Bird" with a sense of irony unique among combat troops.

The 1st Air Cavalry could move the entire division from one area of operations to another, in twenty-four hours or less. During periods on intense combat, the division could be moved to engage the enemy by Army Leadership faster than other units of division size. This mobility kept the unit constantly in contact with the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army, resulting in 5,621 members of the division being killed in action during Vietnam. Ten percent of the Americans on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC, served in the 1st Air Cavalry.

General Vo Nguyen Giap was the leader of the North Vietnam military during both the American and French conflicts, he feared the combat readiness and mobility of the 1st Air Cavalry. He noted in his writings the enormous casualties inflicted on his troops by the unit. Many military experts assert that the Division killed 30-40,000 North Vietnamese Troops during the Tet Offensive and follow up operations in I Corp in the Spring and Summer of 1968.



Steve shared his story with me over the phone. The first time he was wounded was in a situation where the movements of the NVA were masked by heavy rain. He was called up to assist a five-man machine gun team that were all wounded, and he was wounded while advancing to their position. A forward observer for Artillery assisted him to cover. At the same time, the North Vietnamese, lobbed a grenade into the machine gun position, killing all five men inside. Despite the heroic efforts of helicopter pilot, twenty-one-year-old Chief Warrant Officer Art Jacobs and his crew, Medevac was impossible.

HERO: PAGE 21

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Lawrence Turns a Corner While Methuen Flounders

Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena has significantly increased his influence on Beacon Hill with three huge wins on Primary day. DePena took office last November with an overwhelming victory at polls, promising to bring the different factions of the city together to move Lawrence forward.

That happened on Primary day.

DePena endorsed Lawrence City Councilor Pavel Payano for State Senate, Estela Reyes for State Representative, and in a bold move, recruited and endorsed local businessman Francisco Paulino to run for state rep. against a very popular incumbent Marcos Devers.

All three won decisive victories on Election Day, despite the fact that these races had more voters in Methuen and Haverhill than there are in Lawrence.

"This was about putting together a team at The State House to bring in more funding for the city," the mayor told The Valley Patriot just minutes after learning that all his candidates had won.

"But also, I say, and I said it over and over, we have to build a partnership with Methuen and Haverhill because we are all in the same boat. We can't be rowing in different directions. When Methuen improves, it helps us. When we improve it helps the rest of the Valley. Now we have Pavel, Estela, and Francisco, all members of my team at the state house with one message and none of the foolishness we see in the rest of the party. We are giving government back to the people."

By contrast, all of the local candidates endorsed by Methuen Mayor Neil Perry lost on election day. This diminishes his influence, and thereby Methuen's influence on Beacon Hill.

Perry put a lot of time and effort into campaigning for Jim McCarty for state representative after two years of McCarty personally attacking him and questioning his integrity. He also endorsed Methuen Councilor Eunice Zeigler for state senate. Both McCarty and Zeigler lost to Lawrence candidates.

While Methuen has three state rep. districts within its city boundaries, plus the current state senator (Diana DiZoglio) being from Methuen, come January the city will only have one resident representing the city in the legislature with Ryan Hamilton who ran unopposed for the seat being vacated by Linda Dean Campbell.

That's a significant loss from just five years ago when Methuen had a state senator, and three state reps. doing the city's bidding in state government.

State Rep.- Elect Estela Reyes had a slightly different take after her win.

"I know a lot of people in Methuen are going to look at this election and think they have lost representation, but I can assure them I will be there for them as if I lived in Methuen."

That takes a lot of class. A lot more class than we have seen from most Methuen officials lately.

It is our view that this is why Methuen is losing political influence across the board and floundering as a community.◊

State Funding on the Way for Local Priorities

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The Massachusetts Legislature finalized major pieces of legislation before formal sessions ended – including several billion-dollar funding bills that will bring significant funding to the Merrimack Valley. I was proud to secure earmarks in these bills for important projects in the district.

Economic Development & Tax Relief: Most disappointing is that legislative leaders could not produce a final economic development and tax relief bill before formal sessions ended. It would have provided significant investments in the Merrimack Valley and in community hospitals, housing, workforce growth, small businesses, food security, and tax relief for residents. This is a massive let-down for so many families, businesses, and organizations that urgently need this financial support.

Without this bill, many businesses and families will struggle. For example, the funding for community hospitals was critically needed by Lawrence General Hospital to help them stay afloat. Legislative leaders must make this right and find a solution to get this bill across the finish line in the coming months.

Transportation & Infrastructure Funding: The Massachusetts Legislature finalized, and Governor Baker signed, an $11.3 billion transportation and infrastructure bill. I was proud to secure $1.2 million in bond funding to install sidewalks along Tyler Street in Methuen, from Route 113 to Westwind Drive. This is a critical project for public safety.

This bill also includes $400 million for the MBTA to address immediate safety concerns; $275 million for the East-West passenger rail project that will provide great economic benefits; billions of dollars for road, bridge, and rail improvements, plus $110 million for road paving; and funding for electric vehicles and more sustainable transit systems. These investments will have a tangible impact on the everyday lives of commuters and residents across the state.

Annual State Budget: The Legislature passed, and Governor Baker signed, a $52.7 billion annual state budget that takes a responsible fiscal approach – investing in the immediate needs of our workforce and working families, while safeguarding against economic difficulties that may lie ahead.

This budget substantially increases direct aid to cities and towns. Methuen is slated to receive $56.6 million in Chapter 70 education funding (an increase of nearly $8 million over last year) and roughly $6.3 million in general government aid. Haverhill is slated to receive $73.9 million in Chapter 70 education funding (an increase of nearly $9 million over last year) and roughly $11.4 million in general government aid.

With the support of the Methuen and Haverhill state delegations, I was able to secure funding for the following local initiatives – a great win for our communities!

- $200,000 for upgrades at Greycourt State Park in Methuen. Greycourt is a true historic gem with unlimited potential for hosting community events, and this funding will help with safety upgrades and expanded parking to increase usage of the park.
- $50,000 to expand mental health services in Methuen schools. For many years, this earmark has improved Methuen students' access to high-quality mental health services – establishing Methuen as a statewide model for school mental health.
- $50,000 for building improvements at Cogswell ArtSpace in Haverhill, including needed electrical upgrades. Cogswell will be an incredible community resource, expanding access to the arts for all. This is a great win for our community!

I was also proud to secure funding for statewide initiatives supporting our students and educators, including:

- $2,000,000 for civics education, a record funding level that is $500,000 greater than in previous years! Much of this funding goes directly to school districts to support implementation of the state's 2018 civics education law that I sponsored. This is a big win for our schools, as this funding is in very high demand!
- $500,000 for school bridge programs, which help students catch up and transition back into the classroom after an extended absence due to a physical or mental health condition. School bridge programs have proven incredibly effective at improving academic outcomes and reducing drop-out rates.

Other highlights include increased education funding in line with the Student Opportunity Act's seven-year plan, unprecedented investments in affordable child care services and providers, increased funding for housing assistance programs like RAFT and MRVP, millions of dollars for job training and workforce development, and a sizeable contribution to our "rainy day"

CAMPBELL: PAGE 15

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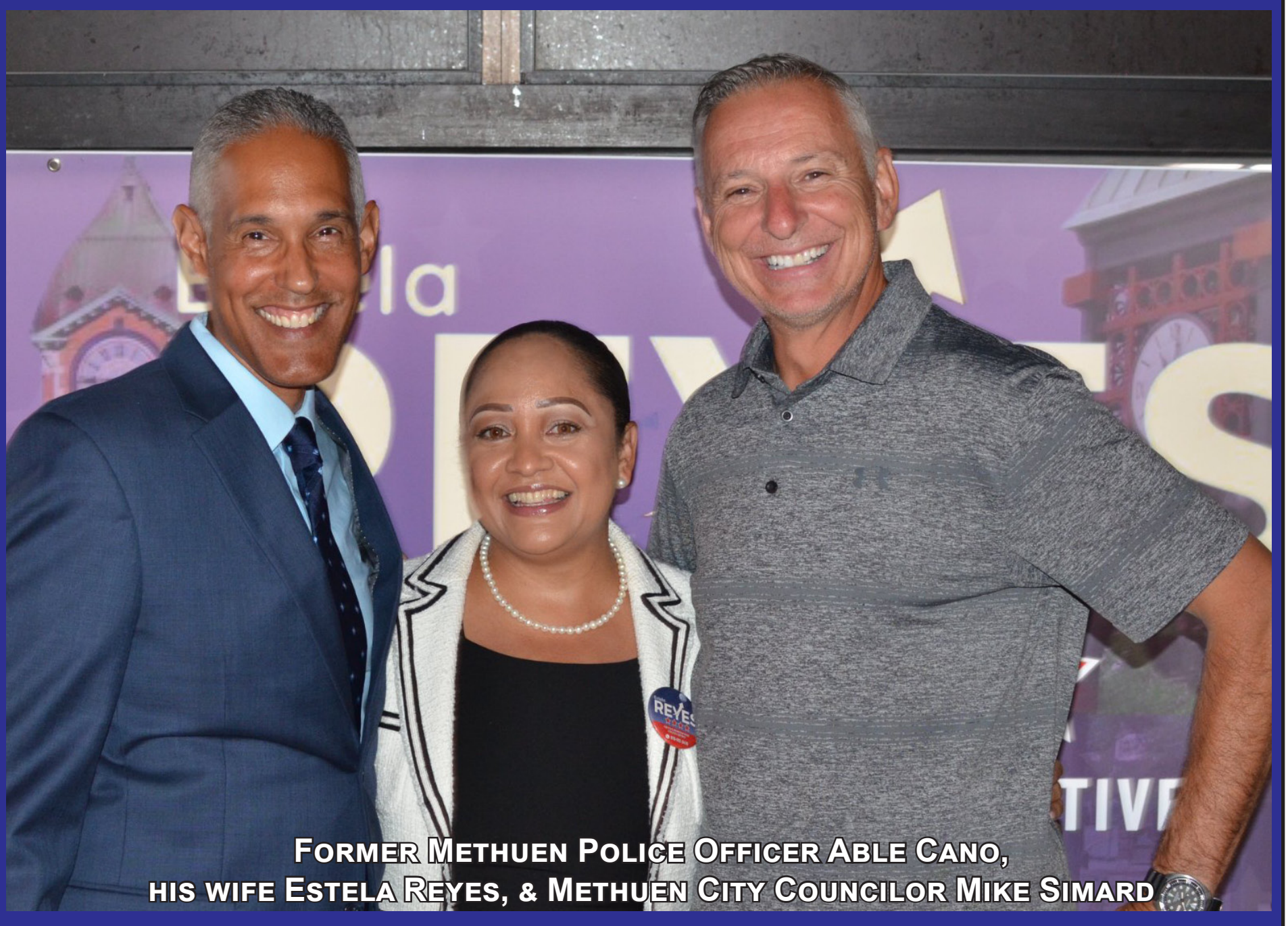
THANK YOU!

TO THE VOTERS OF LAWRENCE AND METHUEN FOR PUTTING YOUR FAITH IN ME TO BE YOUR NEXT STATE REPRESENTATIVE!



FORMER METHUEN POLICE OFFICER ABLE CANO, HIS WIFE ESTELA REYES, & METHUEN CITY COUNCILOR MIKE SIMARD

ESTELA REYES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

LAWRENCE & METHUEN

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT ESTELA REYES

WINNERS AND LOSER

WINNER BRIAN DEPEA

LOSER - NEIL PERRY

LOSER KENDRYS VASQEZ

NORTH ANDOVER SELECTMAN CHRIS NOBILE

PAYANO

REYES

MCCARTY

KENDRYS VASQUES
PAUL TUCKER FOR D.A.

DEVERS V. PAULINO

e the experts predicting a big win for Devers.

BERUBE

HAMILTON'S EASY WIN

CRITICAL RACE THEORY SAFE WITH LOCAL CANDIDATES

"Would you support legislation that requires the incorporation Critical Race Theory, a theory based on the premise that the United States was founded on racist principles and is inherently racist, into public school civics curriculum?"

RAMOS ILLEGAL RALLY IN NORTH ANDOVER

DIZOGLIO

mber 6th, it will be further proof that they only pay lip service to their liberal mantras on "leveling the playing field" and "empowering women". We will be watching this race very closely!

THE DOUGHTY - DIEHL RACE

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

Candidates for State Senate; Pavel Payno, Eunice Zeigler, and Doris Rodriguez appeared on the Paying Attention! Podcast last month to debate the issues of the 1st Essex District.

WINSTON SAYS!

VOTE SEPT. 6th

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Asociación Carnavalesca de Massachusetts

Museo Buttonwoods, 240 Water Street, Haverhill, MA

6 de septiembre – 15 de octubre

La exhibición está abierta de martes a sábados de 10 a 5, domingos de 12 a 5

Recepción y Ponencia Jueves 8 de septiembre a las 19 h.

Más programación por anunciar; ver sitio web para más detalles

www.buttonwoods.org

Dominican Carnaval Costume Exhibit

Asociación Carnavalesca de Massachusetts

Buttonwoods Museum, 240 Water Street, Haverhill, MA

On Sunday, October 2, 2022, Methuen Sons of Italy will host our 2nd Annual Italian/American Heritage Breakfast at our Lodge 902, 459 Merrimack St., Methuen

The community is invited to join us for this fundraising event.

The morning will begin with breakfast followed by our guest speaker Pio Frittita, who will share his life experience of 'Growing up Italian'

The Discoverer Award will be presented to a member of the Sons of Italy Lodge 902 for his tireless service to our Lodge and the community at large.

Come join us for a Sunday Morning Family Breakfast just like we used to have when we grew up!!

For Tickets, call Larry Giordano at 978-360-9256 or stop by the Sons of Italy Hall on Thursday nights.

NEXT PAGE

Reyes Tops McCarty in State Rep Race

Estela Reyes
Lawrence City Council
WINNER

Estela Reyes
Methuen City Council
LOSER

LAWRENCE	Lantigua	McCarty	Reyes
A1	31	58	131
A2	28	26	111
A Total	59	84	242
B1	34	44	257
B2	23	20	134
B3	32	28	119
B4	35	47	212
B Total	124	139	722
Lawrence Total	183	223	964

	Lantigua	McCarty	Reyes
Methuen 1	35	80	85
Methuen 2	20	137	93
Methuen 4	29	202	87
Methuen 6A	0	20	11
Methuen 13	9	159	68
Methuen 14	35	212	126
Methuen 15	21	118	100
Methuen Total	149	928	570
District Total	**332**	**1151**	**1534**

EYE ON DRACUT

Economic Development Efforts Paying off in Dracut

By Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

Have you noticed all the new businesses in Dracut? Month after month, there are ribbon cuttings, grand openings, and new offerings all over town. And it's not by chance.

In the last couple years, there's been a renewed focus on economic development and it's paying off for the town and its residents.

Dracut is home to a wide variety of different businesses and new ones are opening all the time, providing the town with more tax revenue and citizens with more in-town choices. Here's a look at just a few of the businesses that have opened in Dracut recently.

Nutrition Junction is serving up protein shakes, calorie-burning teas, and healthy snacks at 1734 Lakeview Avenue.

Across Tennis Plaza, also at 1734 Lakeview Avenue, Barry's Hot Sauce is being made and bottled.

Speaking of heat, Don Tito's Mexican Grill is spicing things up at 34 Broadway Road.

Likewise, Asado's Firewood Grill, an outdoor restaurant at 1276 Broadway Road, features grilled steak, chicken, and chorizo.

Coco's Café & Catering is doing business at 197 Merrimack Avenue.

Woah Nellie's BBQ & More is fired up at 361 Tyngsborough Road.

Nova Farms, Dracut's fourth recreational marijuana dispensary, is up and running at 1274 Merrimack Avenue.

Downtown Barbell, a new gym with a weight-lifting focus, is pumping up patrons at 15 Victory Lane.

Keller Williams Realty Success has opened a Dracut office at 7 Broadway Road.

Those are just some of the new businesses to open in the last six months or so. Bringing new businesses to town is just one area of focus for the town's Economic Development Committee and Economic Development Project Planner Dan Phelps. Supporting existing businesses is another.

Every month, an existing establishment is named "business of the month" and highlighted in an article by Phelps on the town's economic development website. Brox Farm has been chosen for September. Other businesses featured this year include Scola's Restaurant, Farmer Dave's, Wignall Animal Hospital, Essex Silver-Line Corporation and Lucky Oil.

Recently, you may have noticed the new signs around town delineating the town's nine business districts: Broadway Road, Bridge Street, Collinsville, Dracut Center, East Dracut, Hovey Square, Kenwood, Lakeview, and Navy Yard. Members of the Economic Development Committee developed the program to give each district its own identity and help encourage local commerce at businesses in all sections of town. On the back of each sign, there's a code you can scan to get more information about the history of the specific district and the town's sign program.

In addition, to support and promote in-town Christmas shopping during the upcoming holiday season, a scavenger hunt and other activities are in the works.

When it comes to economic development, the town's message is loud and clear: Dracut is open for business!

Brian Genest is the producer and host of Eye On Dracut, winner of the 2022 Hometown Media Award for News, which airs on DATV Channel 8 and online at DracutTV.org. ◊

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IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

DiZoglio, Local Mayors Rally for Action on Economic Relief

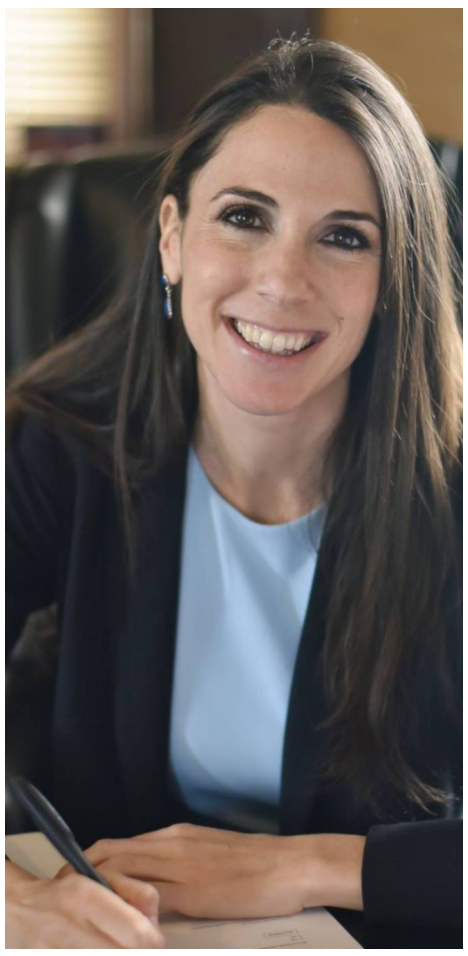
State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) was recently joined by local mayors from across the Merrimack Valley and North Shore in calling on the State Legislature to return to session and resume work on stalled economic development and tax relief legislation.

Joining DiZoglio at a rally in front of Lawrence City Hall were Lawrence Mayor Brian A. De Peña, Lowell Mayor Sokhary Chau, Methuen Mayor Neil Perry, Haverhill Mayor Jim Fiorentini, Amesbury Mayor Kassandra Gove, Newburyport Mayor Sean Reardon, State Representative Marcos A. Devers (D-Lawrence) and Lawrence Director of Health & Human Services Martha Velez.

The event came on the heels of DiZoglio's call on Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland) and House Speaker Ronald Mariano (D-Quincy) to bring the legislature back into session. Specifically, the Legislature would need to suspend Rule 12A (the legislative rule that ends the formal legislative session on July 31 of the second year of the two-year session) in order to resume debate over the legislation.

The economic development bill, which includes more than $1 billion in tax cuts and rebates, plus investments toward local projects and a variety of sectors, was derailed in the last week of the legislative session amidst last-minute concerns over the law known as Chapter 62F.

The law, which was approved by voters in 1986, places a cap on state tax revenue growth and mandates the overage to be returned to individuals who paid income taxes last year. This law would have been trigged for just the second time in state history and would have resulted in more relief than the Legislature projected. Legislative leaders and the Governor's Administration were at odds over whether the trigger should take effect and could not reach a resolution by the end of July 31.



"Working families can't afford to wait for economic relief," said DiZoglio. "Today I was joined by mayors from across the Merrimack Valley and North Shore as we stood in solidarity to call on the Legislature to come back into session and provide struggling families with the relief they need and deserve. In addition to sorely needed tax relief, this legislation includes funding toward important projects in our communities, in the Merrimack Valley and across the Commonwealth, to help bolster the local economy and overall quality of living. We cannot abandon these crucial investments and relief. The Senate and House can and should come together to pass this critical legislation"

DIZOGLIO: PAGE 11

The staff at the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center was on hand at House of Mercy in Lawrence last month to give health screenings for the homeless.

Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena was on hand at the Feast of the Three Saints earlier this month, stopping by to show support for The Movement Family (TMF), the group that is dedicated to feed and clothe the homeless. DePena has been working full time to help deal with the homeless prolem in the city since taking office last November.

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Mark Sivers, DMD

Dr. Mark Sivers' primary focus is to provide an exceptional patient experience. He utilizes technology, like intraoral photography and 3D imaging, to make the most accurate diagnosis possible and provide effective treatment solutions. For more than 15 years, he practiced in a multi-specialty practice and taught as an Associate Professor at the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. He also served as the team dentist to the Boston Red Sox. In 2006, Dr. Sivers worked with colleagues at the Harvard Business School to discover more efficient ways to practice dentistry with fewer complications, better outcomes, and greater patient satisfaction.

Ana Mateo, DMD

Dr. Mateo prides herself in her attentiveness to the needs of her patients and providing positive patient experiences while also providing them with quality comprehensive care. She is excited to join the team at Methuen Family Dentistry and to welcome you to the practice and help you reach your dental goals!

Dr. Mateo attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts where she received her Bachelors in Chemistry. She then completed her dental training at the Boston University School of Dental Medicine where she graduated magna cum laude. Following graduation, she completed a general practice residency at the University of Washington in Seattle.

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Children of War: An Anthology to Support the Children of Ukraine

© Astrid Vogel, et al
Advanced Reader's Copy
Release Date: 24 August 2022
Genre: Fiction (Except for the memoir Child of Minidoka)

NOTE: All proceeds go to charity to help Ukraine's children.

WARNING: Some material is disturbing. Some authors have posted a Content Warning before their piece, others do not—and should. I have added some warnings.

FORWARD: I know some readers skip this part of a book, but you should not, especially in this case. It is full of important information and speaks to the reasons many of the authors became involved in this project. Their reasons, and their connections to war, are as important as the pieces they penned.

This anthology contains fourteen different short stories in various genre's ranging from literary fiction and memoir to fantasy. Different countries are represented as are different age ranges. Page counts for individual stories also vary.

UNICEF statistics and stats from other experts precedes each work. A photo of each author as a child completes each submission. Some of the works are stand-alone pieces while others are part of larger bodies of work. Most stories have an "Author's Note" and an "About the Author" attached to their piece giving the reader additional information into why they participated in the project and a bit of info on them and their writing. Links are provided to the individual authors so that readers can connect easier with them and their other works. This anthology is a perfect way to discover new authors.

Most of us have had some experience with war, directly through family and friends or indirectly through a neighbor, teacher, local business, etc. War and its subsequent trauma isnot discerning, it can and does hit indiscriminately. PTSD is rampant in those who serve in the military actively or are involved in the military through the service of their family members. Can you imagine having to deal with war's horror as a young soul? Through sales this book plans to help the children who will inevitably carry scars of this latest war for the rest of their lives. "Voices of Children Foundation," Ukraine is the charity listed in the book's ACKNOWLEDGEMENT at the end of the book.

Briefly and in order of appearance:

Through Vira's Eyes by MJ Krause-Chivers is a Literary Fiction.

A grandchild of Ukrainian refugees from Russia's civil war, from the first sentence the reader is transported into a realm that one can easily understand. The reader is innocently guided into events that propel the story into horrors. Details such as "the whimpering baby" or a child explaining their need to pee, speak to life's "normalcy" as war shatters what should be a typical day.

Not Dead Just Sleeping by Darrah Steffan is a Fantasy.

Affected by 9/11, flashbacks and inner dialogue give the main character dimension and propel this piece forward. This work speaks to the constant fear surrounding every person experiencing war. It was unclear though if this is part of a larger piece or not.

A Child of Minidoka by Joan T. Seko is a memoir.

This is the only non-fiction piece in this anthology. Her writing details the

three years she spent as a child living in a barbed wired US internment camp during WWII. Her family was Japanese American. To say this first-person account is very powerful is an understatement, its horror is made worse by the fact that it is true and are the memories of an 85-year-old woman.

After reading the above shorts I had put this book down. All well written, the details deeply disturbed me. These above pieces had no warning. (I wish they had.) As a result of subsequent Content Warnings, there were a couple of pieces I did not read.

Jonah by C. Borden is a Fantasy.

Her grandparents lived through WWII. Her mother, born to displaced Germans, remembered the hostility the family underwent living in Poland. This piece is part of the fantasy world, Mythnium, the author has created. This short seeks to explain how trauma, even unconsciously, can affect physical pain. Its powerful material is disturbing. I add my own Content Warning to this piece.

The Prince & the Flute Player by C. Philip is a Historical Fantasy.

The seeds of this are "loosely" derived from a childhood story. Nicely described characters, and settings. "…signs of anxiety and malnourishment were barely hidden under his pure silk garments, his silver ornaments, and his colorful headdress." The fantasy nature of this piece made its warlike story easier to read.

The Tarnished Key by Susan Stradiotto is a Literary Fantasy.

This is the only short that I did not get, it was too cryptic. The main characters wear a plate. Why? Is it a piece of armor? What about the key? What's the treasure in his (maybe the character's a male but I'm not even sure of this) pocket? None of these questions are answered. I reread this twice and still didn't get it. Apologies to the author.

A Mermaid's Tears: A Diary of a War Victim from Angels and Demons by J.C. Seal is a Historical Fantasy.

Her maternal grandfather was in a German then Russian work camp. Time jumps and diary entries effectively move this plot. Along with a few of the other works, this short story continues in her book. The addition of the initialism WTF gives this piece a fresh contemporary slant while in keeping with the fantasy genre. The story travels between current time and Egypt of 524 BCE.

The Dragon's Demise by Daan Katz is a Fantasy. A Content Warning is attached.

Daan's mother acted as a spy playing board games with soldiers to garner and relay info to the author's grandmother. This piece is one of the shorts in his fictional universe. I like the writer's method of telling the tale. The world created is so detailed that it even has its own National Anthem, an attached link is provided for the reader.

The War Legacy by Nandiita Pant Joshi is a Literary Fiction. A Content Warning is attached.

I started reading but the events hit too close to home and I had to stop.

A Vampires Heart: A Last Days Novelette by I. Velez is a Fantasy.

I'm assuming that a 12-year-old demon male is not the same as a human of that age otherwise the character does not ring true. I don't know of many 12-year-old males that have two lovemaking sessions in a day. The plot is nonetheless engaging with vivid visuals. One that particularly struck true to me was her description of blood "the metallic aroma flooded his nose …." A universe emerges that is not only well rounded but also entertaining. The theme: star crossed lovers from rival underworlds.

The Curse of Blood: An Ancient Legends Prequel by L.L. Merewether is a Historical Fiction. A Content Warning is attached.

Ms. Merewether's attention to detail and her well-rounded characters, situated in the past, speak to her award-winning status. Her theme in this piece is the invasion of a stronger people and the suffering they inflict.

Child of Destruction by Astrid V.J. is a Fantasy. This Content Warning explains: "The story looks at the experience of child soldiers …" Astrid was affected having grown up in South Africa during the end of Apartheid. I read only the last couple pages. The "Author's Note" informs us that the main character' story continues in Warring Lions.

Through The Eyes of a Child by Pamela Floyd is a Literary Fiction.

This piece about the children of Ukraine and war's effects on them are powerfully detailed. Great visuals add to the disturbing piece Ms. Floyd has penned. I add my own Content Warning to this story. As I said, it is very powerful, and disturbing. One section is particularly poignant and timely: "He is a mean old man. Why is he so mean? He sent his army here, but we did nothing to him." Out of the mouth of babes!

The Borrowed Life by Elena Shelest is a Historical Fiction.

Born in Odessa this author uses the history of Cossacks in Ukraine to tell her tale. Though the characters are fictitious they are placed into a real setting and time. Again, nice visuals "…hollow clomping of hooves on the frozen ground and the wind whooshing through the fields." Amidst despair there is hope, and a message, "Live your life as if it was borrowed, so that when the time comes to give it back, you could say that it was put to good use."

Helping, however we can, is why this review was written.

Susan Piazza, a Navy veteran, is an author, columnist, and blogger. Book One in her historical American Indian series, "A Bird Call That Isn't," can be found on Amazon at:

A Bird Call That Isn't: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0829MHLRX ◊

LGBTQ+ Community, Does Dani B. Langevin Speak for You?

And If She Does, Can You Please Find Someone Less Offensive?

By: Ron Greene

Dani B. Langevin is a Methuen High School U.S. History teacher, an aspiring writer, and a member of the LGBTQ+ Community of the Merrimack Valley. As an aspiring writer and LGBTQ+ Community Member, she does a column in this periodical under the heading, "Ye Ol'e Gay Valley." I first became aquainted with Miss Langevin's writings in July 2022 when I picked up a copy of 'The Valley Patriot' off of the counter of my local convenience store. It contained her article entitled "The Big Lie." If you haven't read this article, then I suggest that you do and decide for yourself. But as for me, WOW. Just, WOW. In my opinion, the most offensive thing put to print since "Mein Kampf." But like I said, you decide.

Miss Langevin seems to have some very strong opinions about many things. Amongst these are her concerns about racism, social justice, abortion, women's rights, slavery, eugenics, politics, the list goes on and all noble things to be concerned with to be sure. Problem is, she goes from concern to outright anger in a matter of whatever the smallest amount of measurable time is. Unfortunately, anger is something that I know a little bit about since I have had, and still have some issues with the nasty anger bug. Because of that, the more that I thought about her article, the angrier it made me. Angry enough to write a rather scathing retort. Well, two actually. One lengthy, the other not so. As I re-read them, however, I realized that all I was doing was matching her anger with anger. Not the best of strategies I know but we work with what we are given. On the upside I am clearly making some progress with my own anger issues as I sent neither retort, opting instead for something a bit kinder. Either way I feel something needed to be said.

Why am I telling you this LQBTQ+ community? For background. A bit on me, and some on her. I know that you're wondering what any of this has to do with you, but stick with me, please. I am getting there. I'm going to ask you to do something rather odd right now, though. I am going to ask you to stop reading this here and go and read one or two of her articles just to get an idea of what I am on about here. You can find them in the Valley Patriot website's archives. Then I would like you to come back to this. Go ahead, please. I'll wait.

See? That's what I am talking about. And she seems to vent her anger at one particular group. Straight white men, whom she blames for all of the world's ills. And this woman is a high school teacher. Frightening, right? Okay, but here's my question LGBTQ+ Community, wouldn't you expect that an article printed under the header Ye Ol'e Gay Valley would have at least something to do with promoting the LGBTQ+ Community by advertising events sponsored by the community? Wouldn't you expect there to be interviews with prominent members of the LGBTQ+ Community like

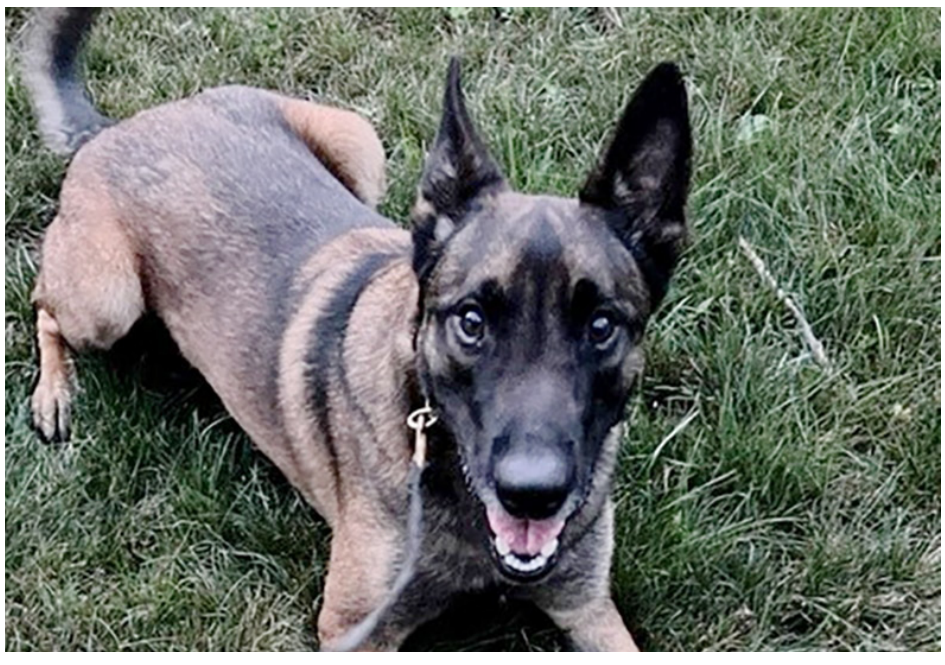
HERO: PAGE 21

Methuen Village Enjoys Last Weeks of Summer with Family Barbecue

METHUEN, MA— Methuen Village had a fun-filled summer evening as the Assisted Living and Compass Memory Support community gathered for their Family Barbecue event on August 11th. Associates, residents, family, and friends came together for festive food and live music, and spent quality time in one another's company.

Attendees sat around picnic tables in the warm summer air, enjoying burgers, corn on the cob, seasonal fruit, baked goods, and more as they listened to live music and shared laughs. Guests were also delighted to see the table decorated with a bird sculpted entirely from pineapple! This was the perfect evening for residents to gather with friends and family, and Methuen Village's culinary team loved serving up the barbecue fare.

Methuen Village Assisted Living & Compass Memory Support, located on Gleason St, is home to a close-knit community of seniors who engage in fun and educational activities, helping them to remain independent for as long as possible. With research-based programs like Brain Healthy Cooking and EnrichedLIFE, residents at Methuen Village are met with a host of options regarding how to spend each day. For more information, visit www.MethuenVillage.com. ◊



Methuen Police Welcome K-9 "Bohdi" to the Department

Methuen Police Chief Scott J. McNamara and the Methuen Police Department are pleased to announce that Officer Griffin Waller has been selected to train with and be the handler of the department's newest member, K-9 Bohdi.

Bohdi is a two-year-old Belgian Malinois who was purchased with a grant provided by the United State Police Canine Association and the American Kennel Club's Reunite grant program, with matching funds provided by a generous Methuen business.

The grants and matching funds will pay for purchasing Bohdi, and for Bohdi and Officer Waller's initial academy training.

Additionally, Massachusetts Vest-a-Dog has provided a $6,540 donation to purchase a K-9 kennel insert and heat alert system for a cruiser that will be used by Officer Waller and Bohdi.

Both Bohdi and Officer Waller will attend Patrol K-9 Handler Class at the Boston Police K-9 Academy Patrol Dog School beginning Sept. 12. Once fully trained, Bohdi will serve as a patrol dog, which includes human tracking, evidence recovery, building searches, and aggression control. After completing the Patrol K-9 Handler Class, Officer Waller and Bodhi will have additional opportunities for specialization, such as narcotics detection training and certification.

In the meantime, Bohdi is bonding with Officer Waller, with whom he will live while the two are partners.

Bohdi replaces recently retired Methuen Police Department bloodhound "Duke" and explosive ordinance detection K-9 "Buddy," both of whom served the Department with distinction. Buddy was handled by Officer Tim Getchell. Duke was handled by Sgt. Matt Mueskes and Officer Rob Cubelli.

"I would like to thank the United States Police Canine Association, the American Kennel Club, Massachusetts Vest-a-Dog, and the generous Methuen business that made it possible for us to bring Bohdi onto the department," said Chief McNamara. "I would also like to thank K-9 Duke, K-9 Buddy, and their handlers, Sgt. Matt Mueskes, Officer Rob Cubelli and Officer Tim Getchell for their years of service to the Department. Duke, Buddy and their handlers worked hard to continue showing the value of K-9s to law enforcement and the community."

To learn more about the United State Police Canine Association, visit: https://www.uspcak9.com/about.

To learn more about the American Kennel Club's Reunite Program, visit: https://www.akcreunite.org/k9/.

To learn more about Massachusetts Vest-a-Dog, visit: https://mavestadog.org/vests/. ◊

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ESSEX COUNTY District Attorney
Paid for by the Paul Tucker Committee

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ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 8TH

Paid for by Paul Tucker for DA Committee

The Exchange Club of Lawrence gives out thousands of dollars in Scholarships last month at the Abe Bishara Boat house in Lawrence. The Exchange club also gave out several scholarships to stuents going to high school.

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Former Salem Police Chief Paul Tucker Wins District Attorney Race

State Rep. and Former Salem Police Chief Paul Tucker won a decisive victory on primary day this month as the Democratic Party Candidate for District Attorney in Essex County.

The current District Attorney, Jon Blodgett did not seek re-election as county's the top prosecutor. The job is a six year term. Paul Tucker will still have to get elected in November.

Tucker scoured the Merrimack Valley all summer, popping up at ribbon cuttings, fund raisers for local state rep. and state senate candidates, and was even seen knocking doors in Lawrence and Methuen.

His opponent, defense attorney James O'Shea lost by about 8,000 votes.

Paul Tucker (D) 40,385 55.6%

James O'Shea (D) 32,304 44.4%

Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena said he was very happy to see Tucker win on Primary Day.

He came to Lawrence and showed us that Lawrence was important to him. Some candidates come to Lawrence once or twice during a campaign, but Paul was here all the time. I know he will be a great District Attorney. He will help us keep criminals off our streets. That makes it safer for the people."

Tucker appeared on the Paying Attention Podcast before the election saying that he will aggressively prosecute anyone who files a false police report or restraining order. He also committed to releasing mug shots when someone is arrested. The current District Attorney Jon Blodgett has threatened local chiefs with prosecution if they release mug shots of suspects. Tucker will appear on the podcast again at the end of the month.

Lawrence Mayor DePeña Appoints War Hero; Francisco Ureña Provisional Airport Manager

Francisco A. Ureña Is serving as Provisional Manager at the Lawrence Municipal Airport located in North Andover. Francisco has a history of public service. He enlisted the day after high school in the United States Marine Corps. Serving eight years of honorable active-duty service. A decorated Marine, he served at two American Embassies; American Embassy in Damascus, Syria & Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He is a Combat Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he served as a Tank Commander. He served as Veterans' Services Secretary 2015-2020, Veterans' Services Commissioner in the City of Boston 2011-2015 and Director of Veterans' Services in the City of Lawrence 2007 – 2011.

He most recently served as Deputy Director of Military Initiatives at MassDevelopment. He is a graduate of Northern Essex Community College with an AA degree in Political Science, UMass Lowell with BA degree in History & Legal Studies and Endicott College with a master's degree in Business Administration. He is the husband of Jennifer Siegler, together they are the proud parents of Maxwell and Madison Ureña.

Spanish: Francisco A. Ureña se desempeñacomoGerente Provisional enel Aeropuerto Municipal de Lawrence ubicadoen North Andover. Francisco tiene un historial de serviciopúblico. Se alistóel día después de la escuelasecundariaenel Cuerpo de Marines de losEstados Unidos. Cumpliendoochoaños de servicioactivo honorable. Un infante de marina condecorado, sirvióen dos embajadasestadounidenses; Embajada de Estados Unidos en Damasco, Siria y Bishkek, Kirguistán. Es un veterano de combate de la Operación Libertad Iraquí, donde se desempeñócomo comandante de tanque. Se desempeñócomoSecretario de Servicios para Veteranos 2015-2020, Comisionado de Servicios para Veteranosen la Ciudad de Boston 2011-2015 y Director de Servicios para Veteranosen la Ciudad de Lawrence 2007-2011. Recientemente se desempeñócomo Director Adjunto de IniciativasMilitaresen MassDevelopment . Es graduado de Norther Essex Community College con un título AA enCienciasPolíticas, UMass Lowell con unalicenciaturaen Historia y EstudiosLegales y Endicott College con unamaestríaen Administración de Empresas. Es elesposo de Jennifer Siegler, juntos son losorgullosos padres Maxwell y Madison Ureña.◊

DIZOGLIO FROM PAGE 6

"It is time that we all work together and continue to move forward for the benefit of not only the people of the City of Lawrence but for every resident and small business in Massachusetts," said De Peña.

"We must do all we can to fight for working-class people," said Chau. "Our gateway cities, including Lawrence and Lowell, face many challenges, as residents struggle every day to pay the bills. It's very important that our state legislators understand this. Every dollar can make a difference. Thank you to Senator DiZoglio for pushing this issue and for encouraging her fellow legislators to take action as soon as possible."

"This legislation is so critical to all of us," said Fiorentini. "It would provide enough money for us to embark on very important projects, including downtown investment and a brand-new industrial park for the City of Haverhill. Our residents need this relief and I am proud to join with Senator DiZoglio in asking for session to resume."

"Senator DiZoglio is a fearless advocate for our communities," said Perry. "These funds would support important Methuen projects, including the Youth and Community Center, which the Senator walked across the state in support of, and greenspace at Greycourt Park. We must not simply ask but demand legislators go back into session to help our communities at a time when they need it most."

"We have very important projects in this bill that will help our small businesses and downtown," said Gove. "We want to be as open and accessible to all in our communities. Action must be taken on this."

"This important bill would help people in our community right now," said Reardon. "State revenues have never been higher, so we're in a perfect position to put these funds into action. Let's get this done."

"I invite my fellow legislators to come back and have another formal session to get this done," said Devers. "Now more than ever, our communities need this help to promote economic development and move us forward."

"We have many people living on fixed incomes, trying to figure out how to pay their rent, food and medicine," said Velez. "Importantly, this legislation includes funding toward public health, which has been cut in recent years. This bill is such a no-brainer. It's time to step up and take a vote."

Stadium Chiropractic

NEW LOCATION! 2 DURSO AVE BEHIND TACO BELL IN LAWRENCE

Dr. John Armano is pleased to announce the opening of Stadium Chiropractic PC located at 2 Durso Ave in Lawrence, adjacent to the Registry of Motor Vehicles behind Taco Bell. Dr. John Armano has been serving the Merrimack Valley for the past 31 years specializing in injury rehab sports medicine, as well as pain management for acute and chronic conditions. Dr. Cindy Armano has been serving Boston's North shore for the past 31 years also specializing in injury rehab, as well as family care and nutritional counseling. PHONE: (508) 350-7036. Se Habla Espanol.

Former Ast. Chief Probation Officer Sentenced to 17 Years for Sexually Exploiting a Child

Coerced 13-year-old girl to engage in sexually explicit conduct via messaging app

BOSTON – A former Assistant Chief Probation Officer for Lynn District Court was sentenced in federal court today in connection with child exploitation offenses.

Brian Orlandella, 49, of Beverly, was sentenced by U.S. Senior District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf to 17 years in prison and five years of supervised release. Orlandella was also ordered to pay a $5,000 special assessment to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. On April 20, 2022, Orlandella was convicted following a six-day jury trial of one count of sexual exploitation of a child and one count of transfer of obscene material to a minor.

"Mr. Orlandella took advantage of a vulnerable, 13-year-old girl – he sent sexually explicit material to her and coerced her into producing obscene content through an anonymous social media profile. In his day-to-day life, Mr. Orlandella held himself out to be a trusted member of the law enforcement community, but that couldn't be farther from the truth," said United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins. "The sexual exploitation of children is an offense that will never be tolerated in my office. We are committed to working with our law enforcement partners to prosecute predators and bring treatment, services and justice to our victims."

"Orlandella knowingly preyed upon a child, sending her explicit videos and directing her to reciprocate. The internet and social media are an integral part of everyday life for our children, and knowing that predators like Orlandella are lurking online is every parent's worst nightmare. Today's sentence underlines that the exploitation of children will not be tolerated and that the consequences are serious," said Matthew B. Millhollin, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New England. "HSI is committed to using our unique investigative abilities to search the darkest parts of the internet to find predators like Orlandella and bring them to justice."

In May 2018, a mother in Texas contacted local police about messages she found on her 13-year-old daughter's cell phone between her daughter and an adult man, later identified as Orlandella. In the messages, sent via the Kik mobile application, Orlandella sent the victim images of himself masturbating and directed her to send him sexually explicit pictures and videos of herself. The 13-year-old victim told him she was 14 years old, and he acknowledged that he was much older than she was.

The Kik account's IP address was traced to Orlandella's residence in Massachusetts. During a search of his residence, two of Orlandella's phones were seized, one of which contained evidence tying Orlandella to the Kik account that was used to procure sexually explicit imagery from the underage victim. During an on-site interview at his home, Orlandella admitted that he had used Kik and was the person depicted in the obscene videos recovered from the child's phone.

U.S. Attorney Rollins and HSI SAC Millhollin made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Port Neches (Texas) Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Anne Paruti, Chief of Rollins' Major Crimes Unit, and Adam W. Deitch, of Rollins' Public Corruption & Special Prosecutions Unit, prosecuted the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse, launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by U.S. Attorneys' offices and DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

"With Malice Toward None"

Ken Willette
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address ushered in a humanitarian and charitable tone to the soon-to-be concluded Civil War and its unspeakable horrors. A nation uncertain as to how to acclimate enemy combatants back to the Union witnessed Lincoln's undeniable plea of forgiveness and mercy for past transgressions. Lincoln clearly set a direction for a still grieving nation recovering from war, which was forever shattered by his assassination.

The poetic beauty and true genius of Lincoln's speeches involved a combination of directness, clarity and brevity. Lincoln focused on the need to heal the nation, not to open old wounds. Biden's recent primetime speech in Philadelphia represented the opposite of Lincoln's visionary address.

Biden's own inaugural address called for unity in a time of political violence, chaos and pandemic. He did not single out a specific group for scorn or ridicule; he wanted to work with both blue and red factions. The speech in Philly was pure diatribe and venom, both unworthy elements of any U.S. President.

Biden singled out the MAGA crowd as the cause of most of the nation's ills. POTUS proclaimed they seek the failure of America and represent a cancer in our society. Not exactly the optimistic philosophy of Kennedy and Reagan, who welcomed the contributions of the loyal opposition. Despite several legislative victories under his belt in recent weeks, Biden appeared both weak and petty despite the grandeur of the background.

Even shamelessly using Marines as stage props, which I never witnessed before in a domestic political speech, didn't convey to me the immense power of the presidency. I had seen soldiers used before as televised symbols in military dictatorships, but never in a constitutional republic. This is obviously different when Bush, Obama and Clinton visited troops in war zones.

Sadly, Biden reminded me more of Carter's Malaise Speech, also referred to as A Crisis of Confidence Speech. Carter focused on energy concerns and growing inflation (funny how things change and yet remain the same). In Carter's speech, there is a real and tangible cry for help--- a genuine sense of hopelessness and dread about the direction and future of the nation. That desperate and unfocused speech should never come from the President of the United States.

Even during our darkest hours, a President is supposed to guide us toward the light at the end of the tunnel, not through cheap attacks and rash decisions, but mature and long-term leadership.

Is Biden trying to tell us that if only MAGA supporters took their hats and flags home, then all our nation's problems, even the unforced errors Biden inflicted upon us, will magically disappear? Biden talked incessantly about MAGA extremes and the escalation of violence.

Not that anyone on a certain committee that loves to bump The Bachelor to broadcast their hearings would care to learn, but I maintain a certain scorecard. To my knowledge, it was Antifa and Radical Leftists that occupied entire blocks in major downtown areas, stormed police precincts and drove away the legitimate government for the cities of Portland and Seattle. But a Vietnam Veteran MAGA, who served his country and paid his taxes, is the clear and present danger to our nation?

Reagan and Kennedy both reflected the boundless frontiers and limitless opportunities of a nation that challenged every generation. Imagine the domestic and foreign crises faced by Reagan back in 1981. Massive unemployment and inflation. The Evil Soviet Empire subjugating hundreds of millions of people. The build-up of nuclear weapons. Social Security slated to run out of money by 1983. Did Reagan open a suggestion box at the local library? Or give a speech questioning the soul of America? No, he got immediately to work.

One of the greatest advantages of not casting the opposition party as villains or destroyers of democracy is that you can accomplish achievements that impact generations to the present day. Reagan, a conservative Republican, and then House Speaker Tip O'Neill, a staunch liberal, put aside very different views on government and literally saved Social Security—the largest social safety net in human history.

Look at Biden's unilateral student debt cancellation and his litmus test of real Americans and you are witnessing the sad destruction of bipartisanship.

LGBTQ+ FROM PAGE 8

Businesspeople, Community leaders and Politicians? But I see none of that in her articles. Did you?

So, I guess the real question LGBTQ+ Community is this: Are Dani B. Langevin and her articles indicative of the LGBTQ+ Communities thoughts and feelings, or is she taking liberties in seemingly pretending to speak for a whole community writing under the header Ye Ol'e Gay Valley? It's time for you to decide whether this woman speaks for you, or for herself because as far as I can see this is just a forum for her to gripe about anything and everything and offering absolutely nothing of any value to the LGBTQ+ Community. Nothing that I can see, at least. If you feel the same, then let her know. The comments are often off on her articles on the website and the email she says that she offers her readers to correspond with her is nowhere to be found. But just call Tom at The Valley Patriot and tell him how you feel. I'm sure he won't mind.

Ron Greene, Haverhill ◊

MVRTA Increases Service Frequency in Lawrence

LAWRENCE, MA - For the first time in the history of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA), all Lawrence-based bus routes will operate every 30 minutes, all day long, starting September 6, 2022. Historically, MVRTA buses in Lawrence only ran every 30 minutes during peak hours, with hourly service at all other times. For many riders, this proved to be confusing, as they were unsure when buses were running every half hour and when they were running hourly. Keeping a consistent 30-minute service all day long not only makes the schedule easier to understand, it also better reflects the reality that riders need the bus throughout the day and are not likely operating on a banker's 9-5 schedule.

Since July, all service was only running hourly except for routes #1 and #41, due to a national driver shortage. Thanks to an aggressive recruitment campaign and a top salary of $27.61/hour, MVRTA has been able to overcome the driver shortage and add new operators over the summer who will be deployed in September. Buses will operate every half hour out of the Buckley Transportation Center on Common Street from 5:00 AM until 7:00 PM on weekdays. Saturday service will continue to run hourly from 7:00 AM until 6:00 PM.

With this service improvement, people living, working, or visiting Lawrence, Methuen, Haverhill, Andover, and North Andover will have more flexibility when using public transportation. MVRTA Communications Director Niorka Mendez noted that "Adding more frequency will not only make our system more reliable, it will also improve the rider experience. Riders will no longer need to check the schedule to make sure they don't miss the bus and wait for an hour for the next bus—they will know that the bus will show up every half hour."

Rider Ana Salinas added that "Having the half hour pulse extended for longer hours helps with my time management and makes it that much easier and faster to get around."

In planning this change, MVRTA worked closely with Lawrence Mayor Brian De Peña, who was very enthusiastic about the improved schedule, noting that the more frequent service will be a great benefit for area businesses: "I applaud the decision that MVRTA made to provide a more efficient and faster bus service in our city. This determination will definitely have a positive impact in our community by making our transportation system

even more reliable."

The new schedule is part of a larger campaign to make MVRTA service more responsive to riders' travel needs and be more visible and accessible. Back in March, all MVRTA buses went fare free, resulting in a 71.48% ridership increase. Starting in April, MVRA began optimizing routings, starting with routes 35, 36 and 37, by making routes simpler and more direct. As Administrator Noah Berger observed, "the 37 bus used to literally travel in a figure eight, which meant that in many instances, you couldn't return to where you initially got on the bus. And since travel times are decreased, we are better respecting our passengers' time." MVRTA will also be introducing bus stop signs and, through a grant from MassDOT's Shared Streets Program, bus shelters, which will remove the intimidation of waiting for a bus. Finally, later this fall, MVRTA will introduce a new colorful bus design and logo that will add to the visibility and attractiveness of riding system. ◊

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Julian Stopyra Post - Polish American Veterans of Lawrence Grant Scholarships

On Saturday, July 16th, 2022, the Julian Stopyra Post - Polish American Veterans of Lawrence hosted a picnic luncheon for its members and invited the nine college students who were the recipients of the Post's annual scholarship for students of Polish heritage studying for their undergraduate degrees.

Scholarship recipients are chosen based on academic excellence, academic and community interests and achievements, interest in Polish subjects, and involvement in the Polish American community.

Honored were Catherine Niziak (Roger Williams University), Jack Sullivan (Merrimack College), Jack Curran (Bryant College), Kiana McCormick (Plymouth State), Maggie Curran (UMass Amherst), Alexis Howard (Northeastern University), Keith May (University of Hartford), Lucas Kelley (UMass Amherst), and Jake Kelley (Emerson College).

The Julian Stopyra Post, which was founded in 1947, was named for Julian Stopyra, a radioman on the USS Arizona who was the first serviceman from Lawrence to die in service during World War II. Seventy-five years later, the Post remains an active organization and participates in many veterans' activities as well as donating to veterans' and other worthy causes. ◊

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Spending Time in the Community

August Recap:

After the busy end to legislative session in July, the office of State Representative Marcos Devers was able to fully focus on community presence in Lawrence during the past month. With no formal legislative session planned until 2023, August provided an opportunity to dedicate 100 percent of Representative Devers' office to constituent services. This timing turned out to be fortunate, as August represented an uptick in Lawrence residents looking for assistance. If you or someone you know has a problem in the city of Lawrence, Representative Devers can be contacted at his email, marcos.devers@mahouse.gov.

The month also included many events in the community which were attended by Representative Devers. One of the most exciting was a visit to the statehouse by Groundwork Lawrence's Green Team, a group of Lawrence area youth who are interested in designing and leading their own environmental initiatives. The year-round program offers paid positions to high schoolers in all areas of environmental research including urban gardening, community service, local temperature reduction and more. Representative Devers was delighted to be one of several representatives who met with participating youth and held a dialogue session on environmental issues and what actions the Representative and other state officials are taking to improve the quality of life for areas like Lawrence.

Representative Devers' office also had a booth at the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council's Community Resource Fair. This event welcomed dozens of local and regional offices and organizations to Campagnone Common for an afternoon of awareness. The event allowed Representative Devers and his staff to connect with community members about various services available in Lawrence and the surrounding communities. Although finding local, state, or federal resources can be overwhelming, Representative Devers' office is always happy to point community members in the right direction!

This month, Representative Devers was also present for the mural dedication ceremony for Marine Corps Sergeant Johanny Rosario Pichardo. Sergeant Pichardo tragically lost her life last August in Afghanistan while protecting Afghan and American citizens. The ceremony honoring her memory was a touching tribute to her life and legacy; Representative Devers was honored to attend and show his support for Sergeant Pichardo's family.

Late in August, the city of Lawrence received a visit by Samuel Pereyra Rojas, the director of the largest bank in the Dominican Republic, BanReservas. At a reception hosted by Ateneo Dominican de Nueva Inglaterra, Representative Devers and other local officials stressed the need for greater economic cooperation between Lawrence and areas in the Dominican Republic.

During the month of August, Representative Devers spent his time in the community, attending events, catching up with community members, and keeping pace with all constituent cases that came to his office. ◊

Haverhill Receives $100K State Grant to Plant 300 More Trees in the City

FROM WHAV.NET

Haverhill is one of 10 Massachusetts cities and several nonprofit organizations to receive a state grant to plant trees.

The $100,000 grant to Haverhill is part of the state's Greening the Gateway Cities Program, which relies on trees to reduce runoff flooding and provide a cooling effect in urban neighborhoods where large areas of pavement create significantly more heat.

"Since taking office, we have invested over $25 million to support the Greening the Gateway Cities Program and have planted nearly 35,000 trees across the Commonwealth, which provide tremendous benefits to our communities, such as improving air quality and lowering energy consumption," said Gov. Charlie Baker.

Along with funding actual trees, the grant also finances "Adopt-a-Tree" information and materials which residents can access to learn more about tree planting and care.

This program is not the first of its kind to be implemented in Haverhill. In 2019, nearly 500 trees were planted by the Department of Conservation and Recreation as part of a three-year planting effort enacted by Mayor James J. Fiorentini. Of the Greening the Gateway Cities Program, Fiorentini has already made first steps forward.

"Excited and grateful to have received $100,000 state grant to plant and water approximately 300 new Haverhill trees," Fiorentini wrote Tuesday on social media. "As part of the grant application, we hired a company to find us great locations for the new trees, which we will be planting in the coming weeks."

Groundwork Lawrence also received $100,000 from the program to plant 100 trees in the South Lawrence West neighborhood and 50 trees at Campagnone North Common. The nonprofit was also awarded $15,000 to organize door-to-door canvassing, literature mailings and exhibits at community events to raise awareness of tree planting efforts and benefits of trees in urban areas.

CAMPBELL: FROM PAGE 2

fund (which has a historic balance of over $7 billion) to prepare for economic uncertainty.

Funding for Government Upgrades: A roughly $5.2 billion general government bond bill has been signed into law to fund many of the government's critical infrastructure needs. This funding will modernize state facilities such as our courts, public universities, public safety buildings, and health care centers. The law will also fund successful grant programs that help our cities and towns to address housing, clean water, workforce, and food security needs.

As Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, I am glad that this law also makes investments in cybersecurity and technological upgrades across state government. These investments are increasingly important across all levels of government to improve efficiency and security.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature. She serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced IT, the

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The Wall That Heals is Coming to Methuen September 27th - October 2nd

The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to Methuen, MA on September 27 – October 2, 2022, at PFC Richard E. Potter Field on Pelham St. and will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public beginning Wednesday, September 28 at 2:00 PM and ending Sunday, October 2 at 2:00 PM. The Wall That Heals honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

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KANE'S CORNER

Lowell Housing Authority Registered Nurse Paula Gouveia

Promoting Health, Wellness, and Financial Stability for Residents

Paula Gouveia an admired and long-term resident of Lowell, serves as the registered public health and wellness nurse employed by the Lowell Housing Authority. Paula explained to Kane that this career was the perfect opportunity to serve her fellow community members and give back to the community she loves. Hired in November, Paula hit the ground running in coordination with the Lowell Health Alliance to determine the top wellness challenges experienced by her residents in affordable and public housing. Paula explained to Kane this information was compiled through a federal wellness survey.

A few of the challenges identified in the survey were isolation especially during the virus, mental health, safety, and housing insecurity due to finances. When Kane met Paula, he knew that she was a networker. Paula brings resources directly to the residents to promo. a healthy body, mind, financial security and a healthy home. The Lowell Housing Authority writes grants to runs self- Sufficiency programs, networks with the community mental health agencies, primary care doctors and the police department to create a safe environment for residents, and families to find the resources needed to move towards health and financial stability. Paula said, " "You can't put the puzzle together, with missing pieces:"

Kane likes how Paula looks at the whole person and supports them in finding the resources they need. Paula explained to Kane that anyone can fall into hard times and affordable housing options allow residents an opportunity to live in a housing community while working towards greater independence or for the elderly and disabled clients a supportive affordable living community. Paula explained that her residents may be families that lost their primary bread winner, people who lost their income, people who became sick, combat veterans acclimating to the civilian world, survivors of domestic violence, and working families with children affected by inflation and the high cost of everything. Paula's says, "I love my job, I can't believe they pay me to give back to the people in my community."

Kane knows a lot of nurses, but Paula is the only nurse he knows that works in Community Public Health. Paula explained that she has worked for 33 years as a nurse in the operating room and wound care. She was grateful for the experience but her current position is also a very rewarding and a perfect match. By cultivating relationships with the residents, she is able to build trust and help build bridges for the residents to support each other and connect them to the resources the community has to offer. Paula explained to Kane she builds trust by hosting lunches, offering social events like Bingo and being present in the housing developments so she is seen regularly. Kane thought wow he likes to have lunch. His humans only give him breakfast and dinner.

These type of social events allow people to meet each other to help with isolation and community building. Paula feels she has made many in roads in being a trusted member of the community. Residents often call for health and wellness advice. Although she does not officially work as a medical nurse, she does provide comfort and provide clinical information to emergency responders at a housing development call.

Paula also feels connected and grateful for the Housing Authority Community that supports her. The Lowell Housing Authority Administration is very dedicated to Resident health and well- being. Paula hosted a teen health fair this month that Kane attended. At this event he met both the Executive Director Dr. Gary Wallace and Assistant Executive Director Adam Garvey. The staff is supportive of each other and very hands on. During our interview Paula contacted Assistant Executive Director Adam Garvey to discuss the recent purchase of a downtown Lowell Building for Veterans Housing. As Paula said 'we love our veterans!' She said the staff is very eager to start this project and an additional project for future veterans housing.

Well Kane was sad to see Paula go at the end of the interview. She brings a lot of light into the room. He rewarded her with so many kisses it was hard to get a picture. It's ok, Paula likes kisses. Kane was so delighted to meet such a positive person in our community and looks forward to seeing Paula again. She is a true advocate for the people in our community.

Woof

Kane Peaslee, Columnist
Valley Patriot ◊

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Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America

Illegal Alien Jefri Paulino of Lawrence Sentenced for Fentanyl Trafficking, Illegal Reentry into the U.S.

Defendant previously convicted of fentanyl trafficking in 2017

BOSTON – A Dominican man residing in Lawrence has been sentenced for fentanyl trafficking and illegal reentry into the United States after being deported.

Jefri Paulino, 26, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Chief Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV on Aug. 31, 2022 to 10 years in prison and five years of supervised release. On Oct. 22, 2021, Paulino pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl and cocaine and one count of unlawful reentry of a deported alien. Paulino has been in federal custody since his arrest in September 2020.

In September 2020, Paulino agreed to sell a confidential informant approximately one kilogram of fentanyl and 50 grams of cocaine at a restaurant in Haverhill. Paulino was arrested upon his arrival for the drug deal and was found in possession of individual plastic bags that contained approximately one kilogram of fentanyl and 50 grams of cocaine.

Paulino was previously convicted of fentanyl trafficking in 2017 for which he was sentenced to three years in prison and was deported in November 2018.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins and Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's New England Field Office made the announcement. Valuable assistance was provided by the Massachusetts State Police. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen W. Hassink of Rollins' Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit prosecuted the case.

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WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

The End of Summer

Welcome to September which will bring the season of fall in mid-month. It seems each summer goes by faster and faster. September can still bring some warm days with temperatures in the 80s and it's not impossible to reach 90 or low 90s.

Even though September is here you can still get summer weather. As a result, you can still wear tee shirts and shorts in September. During September we lose over an hour of daylight. This will cause the days to continue to get shorter and the nights will become longer. With the longer nights can come cooler overnight temperatures. During the first half of September the ocean temperatures are still relatively warm so on a warm day you can still make a trip to the beach and make it a beach day.

The beaches will be less crowded and if you go swimming at the beach this month use caution as there are no more lifeguards after Labor Day. Try and go to the beach with someone you know. This is a smart decision with no lifeguards on the beach.

Recapping August it was another hot month, great for going to the beach. There were many days when the high temperature reached 90 degrees or higher. August turned out to be somewhat wetter than July though the rain that fell in August was not enough to eliminate the drought.

The Merrimack Valley did not do as well for rain in August compared to areas south of Boston especially southeast Massachusetts as well as portions of Southern New Hampshire. During the second half of August there was a day with heavy rain that caused flooding on roadways south of Boston including East Providence. In Rehoboth, MA 7 inches of rain fell. Attleboro MA got over 6 inches of rain. Due to the dry ground not all of this rain was absorbed by the ground. As a result there was a lot of runoffs from this rain which caused flooding on roadways.

This amount of rain improved drought conditions in Southeast MA including coastal Plymouth County. However, this rain did not eliminate the drought over Southeast MA. This goes to show us that during the summertime not all areas get the same amount of rain. When this heavy rain occurred south of Boston the Merrimack Valley got very little rain. As a result, the extreme drought continued for areas north & west of Boston.

During a winter storm the rain/snow amounts from a storm cover more widespread areas. Due to the drought and lack of rain this summer some towns put out water bans. No outdoor watering. Water had to be conserved due to the lack of rain in many areas this summer. What would it take to eliminate the drought entirely?

Moisture rain from a remnant hurricane or tropical storm would be a large help. Remnant rain from a tropical system can produce several inches and it's even possible for double digit amounts. Time will tell if this occurs.

Recapping this summer 2022, it was the 2nd hottest summer on record for Boston. It was also the 4th driest summer on record for Boston with only 4.42 inches of rain. The data for these records includes the months of June, July, and August. These three months are Meteorological summer. After a slow start to summer with some cool days in June summer weather came in fast in July. The high-pressure system in the Northern Atlantic that gave us a cool June with the jet stream tracking to our south weakened (broke down) allowing the hot weather over the central US to be able to move east

into our area. The jet stream retreated back north into Canada along with the Bermuda High Pressure system off the east coast to become stronger all leading to our hot & humid weather. This weather pattern continued for most of August.

The tropics were quiet for August. Will the tropics become active in September?? Will we see more hot weather in September? Will we get some beneficial rain in September? Stay tuned to next month's article for these answers!

In the meantime, enjoy the rest of Summer 2022 and stay safe!!! ◊

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THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Myths

Dr. Pierre Ghassibi
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Greetings all.

Exposing myths and misinformation is a very sensitive topic , because old information is so well entrenched in us that it is hard to remove. Many advices in the past were based on opinions and not on scientific proofs. I understand that conflicting opinions are confusing and there are many of them. In the end, we are the judges and decide for ourselves what to believe. If you see contradictions in this writeup, please look up reliable online sources.

Myths 1 : Drink plenty of water and get plenty of rest .

This is a myth. Diluting our blood is not useful for any condition and can be dangerous . Drinking tons of water does not help cure the flu nor help us lose weight. The advice should be " stay well hydrated ", which means going to urinate 5 to 7 times a day.

We lose one percent of bone and muscle strength per year (more or less). We lose this same amount every day if we rest too much. The advice should be " relative rest " . When we are sick, we should still get up from time to time to walk for a minute, sit for meals, sit to watch TV. Bed rest or immobility does not cure anything.

Myths 2 : Exercise , like running, is bad for arthritis.

The truth is that marathon runners get much less knee arthritis than sedentary people. The prevention and treatment of arthritis, is strengthening the muscles - of course, within reason.

Myths 3 : Vitamins .

The best and probably best way to get these important micronutrients , is the way they are packaged by nature - in food . Very many real studies have shown them useless in the form of supplements for the average person.

Myths 4 : Not wearing corrective eyeglasses can damage the eyes.

The truth is that your vision will not be as good if you do not wear the eyeglasses that you need.

Not wearing them will not make things worse. Maybe the opposite is true . We keep showing that a little stress strengthens the body. Of course, this does not mean to go ahead and torture your eyes . Similarly, occasional hard to chew foods is best for teeth…

In general, we should not play with nature without respecting our adaptation to life over hundred thousand of years. Sudden artificial changes to make our life physically easier may not be healthy. We need to use our bodies, we need to lift somewhat heavy objects, we need to fast at times, etc. Some stress is necessary for good health.

DENTAL CARE

Periodontal Disease

If periodontal disease is not addressed properly, it could lead to loss of teeth and much more.

Not only could periodontal (gum) disease lead to tooth loss but there is also a connection between gum disease and overall health problems. The bacteria in the mouth can spread to other parts of the body and cause secondary problems.

Having periodontal (gum) disease makes you 50% prone to having a heart attack, 47% more prone to having a stroke, and 35% more likely to develop kidney, pancreatic, or liver cancer. It is a chronic inflammatory disease that places people at a higher risk of developing osteoporosis, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, respiratory disease, pancreatic/kidney cancer, and low birth weight/pre-term births in women.

The reason being is that the bacteria responsible for periodontal (gum) disease may actively enter the circulation and become trapped in many organs and tissues.

Do you have periodontal (gum) disease?

Have you noticed the following signs and symptoms: red or swollen gums, bleeding gums, bad breath or taste that won't go away, loose teeth, gums that have pulled away from teeth?

Dr. Mateo

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

Intense enemy ground fire prevented three attempts at extraction. On the third attempt, they were shot down and crashed in the jungle. Steve's company sized unit had to walk out of the area, while under fire. They carried the wounded and fourteen killed in action with them, taking two and a half days to link up with another unit of the 1st Cavalry sent out to assist them. During this movement, the unit was under intense enemy attack. The Company was short one Medic. Specialist Bird was the only wounded Soldier that was able to walk and continued rendering aid to the wounded as they moved. On the second day of the march, while linking up with the additional Company sent to support them, Specialist Bird was wounded again by enemy RPG fire. Finally, late in the day on July 26, 1968, another Medevac Helicopter was able to extract Steve and other wounded Soldiers. After surgery at the 18th Surgical Hospital in Quang Tri, Steve had a brief visit with Chief Warrant Officer Jacobs who was awaiting transport to Camp Zama, Japan for additional surgery on the wounds he received for his actions on July 24, 1968. Helicopter pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Art Jacobs was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions that day. Steve was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with V Device for valor in combat. To this day, Steve remains in awe of what he watched the Airmobile Infantry Soldiers, he had the honor of serving with, and what the Soldiers accomplished daily. His Company maintains a website at www.eagerarms.com. It is an excellent site for anyone wanting to know what it was really like to be an Infantry Soldier in Vietnam.

During his year in Vietnam, he earned a coveted "Combat Medical Badge," an Air Medal, two Bronze Stars and Two Purple Hearts, (despite being wounded three times), along with several other decorations. After his tour in Vietnam ended, Steve finished his two years in the US Army at Fort Bless, Texas. Returning to the Merrimack Valley, he earned his bachelor and master's degree from Suffolk University on the GI Bill, while working at Western Electric in North Andover, Massachusetts and raising a family at the same time. He is married to Marianne, they have a son and a daughter, and three grandchildren, two boys and a girl. Working mostly at Western Electric, he also supported his family with stints at Vernon Plastics, Pynn Companies, and even working as a substitute teacher after retiring from Weir Valves and Controls in 2010. Steve Bird is truly a "Hero in Our Midst."

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, our mission is working with Congress, Veterans, and the Community, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 25 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com◊

Military Veteran Group Says Student Loan Forgiveness is a Disservice to Those who Served

***Mission Roll Call survey finds close to 80% of veterans opposed to student loan forgiveness.* - Pinkston News Service**

WASHINGTON, DC—(Pinkston News Service)—Calling it "responsible and fair," President Joe Biden recently unveiled the administration's expected $500 billion Student Loan Debt Relief Plan, which, in his words, is necessary to "fix a badly broken system." As Americans continue to voice strong opinions in the wake of the announcement, the head of one national veterans organization believes Biden's plan does a huge disservice to active duty service members and veterans alike.

Marine Corps veteran Cole Lyle, who heads the nonpartisan organization Mission Roll Call, argues that many men and women who joined the military did so to not only defend their country in a time of war, but to benefit from a debt-free college education through the GI bill. And, their sacrifices should not be diminished.

"I used the GI Bill to go to school. I was self-aware enough out of high school to know that I wasn't ready for college, and if I eventually wanted to go back to school, I would have that benefit," said Lyle in a recent interview on FOX News Channel. "I signed with that implicit understanding that I would have that. I utilized it."

Lyle, who served in Afghanistan, also pointed out that the administration's justification for its student loan forgiveness plan was based on a federal law which he says "was explicitly designed for members of the military who were volunteering to sacrifice their lives after 9/11."

The primary intent of the 2003 Higher Education Relief Opportunities For Students (HEROES) Act was to provide federal student loan relief for active duty personnel and National Guard members serving in a time of war, military operation or national emergency.

Lyle's view also reflects that of other veterans. A poll conducted by his organization earlier this year found that more than 6,000 veterans (77%) are opposed to student loan forgiveness. And for that reason, Lyle was disappointed that they were shut out of the debate.

"We really weren't seeing that perspective anywhere in the national debate surrounding this and I thought it was important to include," Lyle told FOX News.

In an opinion piece published in May, Lyle added: "It was certainly the right of those who chose not to serve to find different [financing] options, but it should not be at the literal and figurative expense of those who served our nation."

According to a recent CNBC survey, almost 60% of U.S. adults are concerned Biden's plan will worsen inflation. Other surveys show a more mixed reaction. As for what's next, it has been widely reported Biden's plan could face legal challenges.

DiZoglio Triumphs Over Democratic Establishment, Wins Party Primary for State Auditor

FROM WHAV.NET

State Sen. Diana DiZoglio beat back establishment Democrats Tuesday, winning the primary for state auditor against former Assistant Transportation Secretary Chris Dempsey.

At the time of this report, with about 75% of the state's precincts reporting, DiZoglio was winning by about 40,000 votes statewide.

"Our campaign began way back in June of last year, built on a foundation of opening up state government to everyone—no matter our background, bank balance or zip code—and it's been the guiding light of this journey. I'm so incredibly grateful to all the people we met with, learned from and worked alongside," DiZoglio said.

DiZoglio, who will face off against Republican Anthony Amore in November, went on to victory despite losing the party's endorsement at its spring convention and being dissed by her boss, Senate President Karen E. Spilka; immediate predecessor in the Senate, Kathleen O'Connor-Ives; and the woman she hopes to succeed, state Auditor Suzanne M. Bump.

DiZoglio celebrated her upset victory with supporters at Stacks in downtown Haverhill.

In a statement, Amore congratulated DiZoglio on, what he called, her "hard fought victory." He said, however, he has the endorsement of Gov. Charlie Baker.

Grand Jury Indicts Man in 36-Year Cold Case Murder of North Andover Woman

FROM WHAV.NET

A 62-year-old man, already in prison for a 2008 conviction, was indicted Wednesday and charged with the strangling death of a 20-year-old North Andover woman in June 1986.

Essex County District Attorney Jonathan W. Blodgett said an Essex County Grand Jury indicted John Carey, who turns 63 on Sept. 3, after hearing evidence in the 36-year-old cold case. Claire Gravel, a Salem State College student, was found dead Sunday, June 30, 1986 after having gone the night before to Major Magleashes' Pub on Washington Street in Salem with members of her softball team.

"For 36 years, Claire Gravel's family and friends have had nothing but questions about her death," Blodgett said. "Today, we are able to give them some of the answers."

Blodgett said a 2012 lead based on surviving physical evidence was investigated using modern forensic testing. Since then, the efforts of assistant district attorneys and State Police detectives specializing in cold cases, carried on the investigation that was started by Beverly, Salem and State Police at the time of the murder.

Gravel was last seen alive between 1:30 and 1:45 a.m. that morning after being dropped off at her apartment on Loring Avenue in Salem. Three workmen discovered her body in the woods on the northbound side of Route 128 in Beverly. The medical examiner determined she had been strangled to death.

Over the years, Blodgett's office said, investigators interviewed dozens of witnesses and persons-of-interest and followed through on every lead and tip they received.

Carey is currently serving time at MCI Concord for a 2008 conviction on a charge of attempted murder.

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Essex Heritage Presents 21st Year of Trails & Sails: 10 Days of 150+ Free Events Across Essex County

Long-standing program helps connect people to the incredible historic, cultural, and natural resources of the Essex National Heritage Area!

Presented by Essex Heritage, Trails & Sails features more than 150 free events over 10 days, this year held from Friday, September 16th through Sunday, September 25th. These events celebrate the elaborate variety of historic, cultural, and natural resources in the Essex National Heritage Area: the 34 cities and towns of Essex County, a 500 square mile region just north of Boston, MA. Participants can visit the website to explore all events at www.trailsandsails.org or pick up a guidebook at one of the 13 Visitor Centers in Essex County, as well as in most local libraries.

Essex Heritage CEO, Annie Harris, said, "Trails & Sails was created 21 years ago to encourage residents to experience some of the wonderful trails, museums, historic sites, and water-based activities that abound in this region. All the events are free, so there is plenty of incentive for locals to visit these special places that they drive by every day."

Event participants can take advantage of a variety of family-friendly activities, garden tours, guided hikes, historical walks, lectures, boat rides, and more – happening morning, afternoon, and evening over 10 days. With so many special things to do and see during Trails & Sails, there's something for everyone.

New this year, Essex Heritage has identified four themes of significant importance to the Essex National Heritage Area including the sustainability of natural resources, the importance of our coastal salt marshes, the variety of available outdoor recreational activities, and new discoveries being uncovered by our local history. Helping to raise awareness about the important work being done by partnering event hosts is another way that Trails & Sails brings the community together, some highlighted activities are included below.

Here for Tomorrow - Events on Sustainability: Go birding in the Upper Little River Watershed in Newburyport, join a special guided tour of the Climate + Environment exhibitions at the PEM, or learn the indigenous ways to use certain plants with a member of the Massachusetts Tribe, and much more!

Discover the Great Marsh - A Critical Habitat in a Changing Climate: Hear from local scientists about how they study the impact of sea level rise on the Great Marsh in Rowley, enjoy a guided paddle through the Ipswich River and learn about the watershed, or take a special tour the historic Cox Reservation on the edge of the Great Marsh.

Great Outdoors! - Opportunities for Recreation and Wellness: Ride local rail trails with the advocates who work to ensure safe non-motorized travel routes in Essex County, tours are available starting in Topsfield, Newburyport, and Lynn. Learn how to forage for mushrooms on a fungi walk in Beverly, or explore the fields and forest of Camp Denison in Georgetown in search of some amazing insects, reptiles, and amphibians.

Untold Stories of Essex County - New Discoveries of our Shared History: Take an immersive theatrical walking tour with abolitionist and educator, Charlotte Forten, a young, African-American woman who lived in Salem in the years leading up to the Civil War, attend a special talk with author and journalist, Ted Reinstein at the Lynn Public Library, or trek to Cape Ann Museum for a special performance with the Wampanoag Singers and Dancers celebrating Indigenous Heritage Day.

All Trails & Sails events are free & most are available on a first come, first-served basis except for a few reservation-required events. Be sure to visit TrailsAndSails.org for the most up to date information and instructions as applicable.

Trails & Sails 2022 is generously sponsored by Eastern Bank, Salem Five Charitable Foundation, and Institution for Savings.

About Essex Heritage and the Essex National Heritage Area

Essex Heritage is a non-profit organization that takes a community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Working through public-private partnerships, Essex Heritage uses the Area's heritage resources in unique ways to engage diverse audiences. ◊

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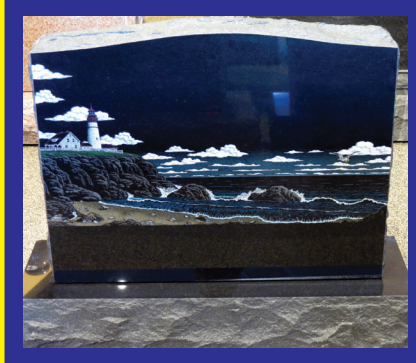

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Women Are Disproportionately Hurting Our Country?

When I was in college, I read a book by George Gilder, one of the wisest thinkers of the last half-century, titled "Naked Nomads," which had a deep impact on me. It was about single men and all the pathologies associated with them. For example, Gilder drove home the point that the biggest factor concerning violent crime was that it is overwhelmingly committed by single men.

While there was no danger — I would say no chance — that I would commit a violent crime (though I was, at the time, single), this fact along with others in the book made me a lifelong advocate of marriage.

I also came to realize that raising good men was the most important thing society could do. If it doesn't, the male propensity to physical aggression and predatory sexual behavior will wreak havoc. Therefore, raising boys to control their natures is fundamental to society avoiding chaos.

Over the course of a lifetime, however, I have come to realize that while society was right about males, it was wrong about females. Whether spoken or unspoken, most people thought that girls just didn't need to be raised to control their natures nearly as much as boys did.

But they do.

It's true that females are not inclined to violence or predatory sexual behavior as men are. But this hardly means that girls and women don't have to learn to control their natures. On the contrary, as I have been telling parents for many years now, they need to teach their daughters to control their natures just as much as they teach their sons to do so.

Specifically, girls have to learn to control their emotions.

Just as the male sexual drive and violent impulses can overwhelm their conscience and their ability to think and act rationally, emotions can do the same thing in girls and women: overwhelm their conscience and their ability to think and act rationally.

However, it should be obvious that at least two generations of parents — especially among the well-educated — did not teach many of their daughters to control their emotions and think rationally.

The result is that women are disproportionately active in doing damage to our society.

The most obvious example is education. American schools teach less and indoctrinate more than ever before. Big-city public (and most private) schools are damaging young Americans to an extent and in ways no one imagined just a few years ago. Young children are prematurely sexualized — they are, for example, exposed to "Drag Queen Story Hour" in class and in local libraries from the age of 5. These feature a man dressed as a woman reading and dancing for them.

And who is facilitating all of this? In virtually every case, a woman. Ninety-two percent of kindergarten teachers are women, 75% of all teachers are women and 85% of librarians are women.

And they are teaching young people to despise their country (the creator of the poisonous "1619 Project" is a woman), to feel guilty about their "white privilege" or to think of themselves as victims if they are black. Even worse, they are indoctrinating them in "nonbinary" thinking regarding sex and gender.

As City Journal reports, "Los Angeles Unified School District has adopted a radical gender-theory curriculum encouraging teachers to work toward the 'breakdown of the gender binary,' to experiment with gender pronouns such as 'they,' 'ze,' and 'tree,' and to adopt 'trans-affirming' programming to make their classrooms 'queer all school year.'"

The same is happening in school districts around the country.

These ideas originated in university gender studies and women's studies departments, nearly all of whose professors are female.

Teachers and their unions did great damage to young people during COVID-19. They demanded — because of their hypochondria and an apparent inability to apply reason to COVID-19 risk — that schools be closed for nearly two years. Teachers unions in big cities threatened to go on strike if schools opened. In general, teachers unions are just radical arms of the Democratic Party and the progressive movement. They are overwhelmingly composed of women members and women leaders. The head of the National Education Association is a woman, as are the heads of the Los Angeles, Chicago and New York City teachers unions.

Women physicians and health care

WOMEN: PAGE 31

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

‘Black Bird’

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

Chicago, 1996. Drug trafficker Jimmy Keene (Taran Egerton) faces a ten-year prison sentence. Then the FBI approach him with a strange offer: transfer to a maximum-security prison for the “criminally insane,” gather evidence to finally quash the appeal of suspected serial killer Larry Hall (Paul Walter Hauser), and Jimmy can earn his freedom.

That’s the story behind Apple TV+’s riveting true crime limited series ‘Black Bird.’ The too-wild-to-be-fiction premise comes straight from the real James Keene’s 2010 autobiography, ‘In With the Devil: A Fallen Hero, a Serial Killer, and a Dangerous Bargain for Redemption.’

The catch with the deal Keene is offered, is that it requires him to be transferred from a minimum-security prison to a high-security prison for dangerous and unstable inmates. It’s not a good environment for anyone, especially Keene since he is the son of a cop. Moreover, in order to keep a lid on it, no one in the maximum-security prison is to know that Keene is working with the feds (played by Greg Kinnear and Sepideh Moafi), who are concurrently trying to find the bodies of Hall’s victims.

Unfortunately, Jimmy’s ex-cop dad (Ray Liotta, in one of his last screen roles) blows his cover before morning tea. With crooked guards and a mob boss prisoner not missing a thing, the chances of Jimmy surviving, let alone succeeding, become increasingly slim. The best scenes are the cat-and-mouse exchanges between Keene and Hall, verbally dancing around each other to see who may break first.

‘Black Bird’ is loaded with stellar performances, starting with newcomer Laney Stiebing’s haunting turn as Jessica. Greg Kinnear is terrific as the small-town detective who trusts his gut and out-thinks the Feds, and Sepideh Moafi is magnetic as Lauren, the FBI agent who can see through Jimmy’s charms.

Ray Liotta, who died in June, stands out as Jimmy’s dad, an ex-cop who blames himself for his son going bad. Liotta’s gritty Jim Keene Sr. crumbles, emotionally and eventually physically, wondering if ever did enough for his boy.

Egerton turns in his most mature performance yet, complex and wrenching. Criminally overlooked for playing Elton John in ‘Rocketman’ a couple of years ago, he’s finally getting his due in this role.

Paul Walter Hauser is simply mesmerizing in his role as Larry Hall. Hauser plays him as a deeply creepy figure who is nonetheless rendered incredibly human. His menacing and haunting performance won’t ever be forgotten and ranks among the great on-screen serial killer portrayals.

‘Black Bird’ is written by Dennis Lehane, author of Gone Baby Gone, Mystic River, and Shutter Island, so it is perhaps no surprise of the show’s quality, but it is Lehane’s first time as a showrunner and he has shown an instant understanding of the genre.

‘Black Bird’ is the type of expertly written and crafted drama that makes it nearly impossible to point to any one section of the six-hour story and declare it the reason the show is so good. It feels singular moment to moment, yes, but it also has an impressively strong overall impact. In the end, it does something remarkably simple, something that true crime stories too often fail to do. “Black Bird” tells a great story and tells it well.

‘Black Bird’ is available to stream on AppleTV+.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

Follow me on Twitter and Instagram @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ◊

STOP

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

God Bless you all in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ!

This Column that I am writing for September 2022 is the most important message that I could pen at this time for my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, those who refer to themselves as Christians. Jesus told the religious leaders of his day in Matthew 16:3, “and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.” NKJV. They could discern the weather, but they could not discern the SIGNS of the TIMES!!! We find ourselves now, as it was in the time of Noah before the flood. When God said in Genesis 6:5, “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” NKJV.

Likewise, The Apostle Paul told the believers, in Ephesians 5:15-16, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” NKJV. So now, I am saying to you, WAKE UP for the times we are living in are evil!!! Stop acting like fools and be wise!!!

The Bible also tells us in, Galatians 6:10, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” NKJV. Do good, especially to those who are of the household of faith. Again, STOP being Nasty to one another, the world is watching!!! If Christians can’t be good to one another, why should they?

Another important point to consider is, what church you attend. Because what is preached there is what you will end up believing, one cannot go beyond in their beliefs than what he or she is taught! Some Churches preach the 10 Commandments, and only from the letters in red emphasizing your love for God. Some preach only from the Letters of the Apostle Paul emphasizing God’s love for you! Some preach Healing is available today and some preach if it happens it happens and if it doesn’t, it must not be God’s will! Some preach on the Holy Spirit and the Power of His Gifts, and some preach if you speak in tongues, you are of the devil. It is vitally important what church you go to because what you hear taught you will eventually believe!

Now, having said that, nowhere in the Bible does it speak of UNITY of Doctrine!!! The Catholics are not going to submit their doctrine to the Baptist! The Baptists are not going to submit their doctrine to the Pentecostals and the Pentecostals are not going to submit to the Methodists. So, we must find common ground that we can agree on without compromising the Basics! For example, Jesus is the Christ, The Son of the Living God and that salvation is only by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ!

The Bible does speak to the Unity of SPIRIT in Ephesians 4:3, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” NKJV. We as believers are called to walk in LOVE, and KINDNESS, endeavoring to keep the UNITY of the SPIRIT in the bond of PEACE.

Let’s STOP tearing one another down over the peripheral issues and be at PEACE with one another.

This brings me to Watching YOU-TUBE Pastors tearing down other Pastors!!! This seems to be the new trend. They say they are doing Christians a service by watching sermons by other Pastors online and when one makes a mistake or gives an interpretation of a scripture different than what they believe to be true, they pounce on them and tear down their character and integrity! Who hired these you-tube preachers to be our sermon police??? All they are doing is satisfying those who have itching ears. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” NKJV. These You-Tube Pastors who don’t Pastor a real church, now get themselves a following on their you-tube page and spend their time tearing apart the Church by attacking real shepherds who have real flocks. We as Christians should STOP SUBSCRIBING to this junk getting our ears poisoned. Don’t let them treat us like garbage trucks, dumping in us their toxic information which is mostly born out of bitterness and jealousy!

God takes care of His Church, He has put a process in place that if a Pastor gets out of bounds, he or she can be pulled aside and corrected and reproved. Believe me, this process does not include social media of any kind! Being a real Pastor today is not easy, especially in our “I caught you” society!

Now I am not saying stay away from the internet. But then again, that might be good advice to some of you if you are replacing reading a real Bible with real paper pages, with looking at social media. Today, social media is like the tree of knowledge of good and evil, it has both! But the Bible says in Psalms 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” NKJV. Psalms 119:133, “Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.” NKJV. God backs up His Word with His name as it says in Psalms 138:2, “… For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.” NKJV.

There are NO perfect churches! There are NO perfect Pastors and there a NO perfect People! Churches are filled with Broken and Flawed People and Jesus takes and turns their mess into a message! Only Jesus specializes in doing that which we cannot do for ourselves which is Real Life Transformation!

Finally, my brothers and sisters in Christ, I leave you with these words found in Ephesians 4:32, “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” NKJV.

God Bless and Love to All,
peterlarocque@hotmail.com ◊

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for AUG, 2022 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)

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ANDOVER

TJ Realty Tr & Thomas Goddard Tr, 30 Lowell Junction LLC, $7,000,000, 70 Lowell Junction Rd

Gabrielle & John Nossiff Jr, Andrew Showronek & Julie Jacobs, $1,965,000, 16 Cedar Rd

Frank & Sandra Wellman, Derek & Kary Dirocco, $1,840,000, 82 Woburn St

William & Deborah Maclellan, James & Morgan Deng, $1,705,000, 30 Stoneybrook Cir

Joseph & Joan Obrien, Geoffrey & Sally Conway, $1,550,000, 15 Cedar Rd

Gregory & Pamela Wilkie, Christopher & Sonya Manocchio, $1,400,000, 8 Knollcrest Dr

Jim Sun & Shirley Luo, William & Dakar Delacruz, $1,399,000, 6 Coderre Way

Tao Yu & Ji Wu, Nadeen Mohammad & Sehrish Nadeem, $1,340,000, 22 Somerset Dr

David & Lisa Diantonio, Mei Sun & Yuhui Shang, $1,260,000, 20 Enfield Dr

Daniel & Katherine Grondin, Christopher & Jenna Mcaphee, $1,225,000, 15 Blackberry Ln

Aftab & Masooma Bhaiwala, Rahul Agrawal & Ethika Tyagi, $1,200,000, 19 Avery Ln

Alexander & Katherine Mccampbell, Gideon Kojokaru & Ayelet Katz, $1,175,000, 1 Hidden Way

Richard Manjoney & Rosanne Schipani, Kimberly & Jillian & Joyce & David Middlemiss, $1,125,000, 37 Algonquin Ave

Dennis & Eileen Forgue, Jacob Eddy & Andreina Madrid, $1,053,250, 18 Reservation Rd

David & Laurie Samuels, Brett & Deandra Bergamini, $1,050,000, 7 Ridge Hill Way

Zhiping Shi & Jin Sun, Guruharsha & Rajeshwari Bhat, $1,000,000, 70 Bailey Rd

Givens Realty Tr & Robert & Connie Givens Tr, Deborah Rossi & Louri Kravtchouk, $995,000, 7 Bobby Jones Dr Unit 11:1

Guy & Catherine Pederzani, Nicholas & Nicola Devita, $970,000, 81 Bailey Rd

Jue Zhang & Lidong Yang, Diefei Yan & Connor Waskiewicz, $927,000, 386 Lowell St

Zachary & Stephanie Goldman, Christopher Thomson & Marjorie Zohn, $875,000, 143 Chestnut St

Lih-Yen Hsieh & Tzai-Yung Hsieh Revocable Living Tr & Lih-Yen Hsieh Tr & Tzai-Yung Hsieh Tr, Evan & Emily Michals, $850,000, 8 Donald Cir

Mark & Lisa Freni, Xiadyan Chen, $850,000, 3 Hampton Ln

Buyer Accepted LLC, Sohal & Tonny Barua , $846,600, 15 Iron Gate Dr

Chase Family Tr & Lauren & Alan Chasse Tr, Cynthia Pitera , $805,000, 4 Cyr Cir

Ronald & Claire Radie, 84 Andover St LLC, $775,000, 60 Elm St

Whidden Family Tr & Loas Whidden Tr, Joshua & Shanna & Stanley & Sharon Caras, $739,900, 3 Spruce Cir

Ryan & Robyn Noonan, Edward Tobin & Steven Evans, $735,000, 58 Prospect Rd

Susan Murphy, Nicole Shadeed & Sean Mccarthy, $725,000, 9 Canterbury St

Cynthia Pitera, Corey Lynch & Nicole Panjian, $665,000, 185 Greenwood Rd

Steven Puglia & Laura Pierce, Wai Lee & Tiantian Liao, $659,000, 28 Sutherland St

Jane E Kopp Revocable Tr & Jane E Kopp Tr, Isabel Bree & Dylan Ring, $610,000, 105 Lowell St

Ann P Smith Nominee Realty Tr & Ann Hogan Tr, Myco Build LLC, $600,000, 94 Greenwood Rd

Janice Golan, Constitution Poperties LLC, $590,000, 61 Wild Rose Dr

Dawn Fisher-Salk & Dawn Fisher, Buxton Redevelopment LLC, $550,000, 122 North Main St

Nancy Marsh, Sugalesini Subramaniam, $500,000, 202 Brookside Dr Unit 202

William Sloboda & Heather Reed Est, Juan Cosme & Erica Kobzik, $490,000, 38 Osgood St

Maureen & Richard Dowd, Cameron & Nishat Collinge, $455,000, 1200 Spring Valley Dr

Curtis W Martha Living Tr &Tobin Gottfried Tr, Edward Noonan, $425,000, 33 Stinson Rd

Sheri Radoux, Sarsita Mitra & Naveen Pandey, $420,000, 49 Lupine Rd Unit 2

Clipper Realty Tr & Dennis Barous Tr, Kindred Homes Inc, $400,000, 100 Central St

Suzanne Harvey Tr & Suzanne Harvey Tr & William Harvey, Katherine Vincent, $389,900, 49 Lupine Rd Unit 1

Ratte Family Tr & Mark& Julie Ratte Tr, Jill Bolduc & Brian Fosnock, $381,000, 13 River St Unit 1

Ratte Family Tr & Mark& Julie Ratte Tr, Michael Isola, $380,000, 17 River St Unit 3

Ratte Family Tr & Mark& Julie Ratte Tr, Sarah Sawyer & Ian Lacey, $375,000, 15 River St Unit 2

Ratte Family Tr & Mark & Julie Ratte Tr, Meghan Fay, $362,600, 19 River St Unit 4

James Mcgonigle, Oleg Suru, $360,000, 750 Brookside Dr Unit E

David Wright, AVK Enterprises LLC, $275,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 301

Yuanlin Dong & Chunsheng Song, Shixuan Song, $235,000, 237 North Main St Unit 10

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Donna Olson, $217,100, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 108

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Donna Schifano, $217,100, 6 Overlook Dr Unit 108

Beverly Elias-Stern & Arleen Zaft Est, Stephen & Karen Naffah, $206,978, 1 Francis Dr Unit 205

Donna Schifano, Susie Westphal, $136,048, 2 Francis Dr Unit 104

Karen L Krichmar Revocable Tr & Karen & Steven Krichmar Tr, James & Mistina Davis, $1,750,000, 5 Preston Cir

Mohamed Ali & Nimco Guleid, Gregory & Jillian Brown, $1,000,000, 40 Bailey Rd

Aaron & Julie Green, James Pershken & Mara Lenco, $706,000, 47 Gould Rd

Matthew Newcomb, Dream Realty Tr & Mohamed & Naphe Nfatahi Tr, $166,000, Colonial Dr Unit E2-2

LAWRENCE

Deacy Building Realty Tr LLC, Broadway Lodging LLC & OPC Realty LLC, $3,550,000, 30-36 Lawrence St

Newell Farm Builders Inc, Karl & Kaitlyn Armano, $765,000, 12-14 Eutaw St

Nelson Garcia & Maria Lora, Wendy Paula & Ramon Brito, $724,000, 474-476 1/2 Haverhill St

Randy Matias, Denice Nunez & Giovanni Santiago, $700,000, 33-35 Katherine St

Alfredo & Roberta Biajoli, Carlos & Keury Acevedo & Norma DeAcevedo, $690,000, 68-70 Manchest St

Dhariana Rios & Dhariana Gonzalez, Lisandro Dejesus, $650,000, 26 Hofmann Ave

Christopher York, Romain & Florence Strecker, $650,000, 334-336 Park St

Albert Maciariello, Juan Arias & Fernando Pena, $630,000, 33-35 Floral St

Ventura Borgen Real Estate Tr & Maribel Ventura Tr, Rogelia Calderon & Keyli Burgos & Rafael Deleon, $600,000, 115-117 Saratoga St

Josepina Cepeda & Antonio Mora, Rosa Mora & Porfirio Leocadio, $600,000, 38 Orchard St

Daher Group Inc, Deidamia Brito, $550,000, 10 Sanborn St

Jose & Gladys Perez, Vicente & Ralmadys Perez, $520,000, 121 Farley St

Ivan Acevedo, Yary Berroa & Andrid Estevez, $510,000, 20 Ayer Rd

Kevin & Laurie Crowley, Yuremi Demercedes & Manuel & Josefa Lizardo, $504,000, 16 Rockwood Ln

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Luz Arias, Yandra Lantigua, $290,000, 219 Lawrence St

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John & Giovanni Sorbello, Yemar Matias, $250,000, 469 Hampshire St Unit B

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Heavenly Investments IV LLC, Chizmas Holding -Lawrence LLC, $2,000,000, 647 Andover St

Garen & Hagop Jarkian & Albert Grella , Mkac Realty LLC & Hagop Jarkian, $1,400,000, 147 Marston St

One Hardt LLC, Ashgemi Corp, $1,300,000, 9,15 Water, 316,319-323,325 Broadway

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678 Haverhill St LLC, Dipti Liquors Inc, $900,000, 678-684 Haverhill St

P & V Realty LLC, Kelvin Rojas, $775,000, 201-207 West St

Newell Farm Builders Inc, Michael Armano, $765,000, 18-20 Eutaw St

Leonardo Gonzalez & Sobeida Santos, Harold Escobar & Laura Cedeno, $750,000, 247 Prospect St

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Mark & Kellie Palermo, Angela & Cristian Paulino, $715,000, 332-334 Salem St

Chris-Far Realty Tr & Christina Fary-Jenkins Tr & Christina Coady, Jose Bastista, $685,000, 267-269 Merrimack St

Reynaldo Rodriguez & Ramon Quiles, Maria Mejia-Garcia & Lourdes Torres & Marianlly & Maria Burgos, $660,000, 22 Morton St

Kelvin Abreu, Maria Lantigua & Jose Baez, $650,000, 477-487 Howard St

Kristina Garcia & Lisa & Gandolfo & Matteo & Matthew Cascio & Lori Morris, Jose Dejesus & Mileidy Deleon, $625,000, 37-37A Salem St

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Eridania Arias, Javier Santos & Jereni Dejesus, $580,000, 150 Willow St

Nathaniel & ellen Lowe, Kourtney & Frank Moran Jr, $575,000, 23 Bellevue St

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Jose & Mercedes Valdez, Arielys Deleon, $575,000, 38 Newton St

Vionnette Vasalo & Vionette Vasallo, Glenny Garcia, $555,000, 17 Hale St

Irene Espinal & Diosmares Castillo, Gissell & Deyanira Eduardo, $520,000, 60-62 Hawley St

Grandivew Realty Tr & Kenneth Daher Tr, Africa Mejia, $505,000, 16 Cornish Rd

Fernando Gutierrez & Dinorah Gutierrez Revocable Tr & Keira Anderson Ind Tr & Fernando Gutierre Est & Karen Gutierrez Ind Tr, Dinora Roque, $500,000, 62 Union St

Fernando Gutierrez & Dinorah Gutierrez Revocable Tr & Keira Anderson Ind Tr & Fernando Gutierre Est & Karen Gutierrez Ind Tr, Dinora Deleon, $500,000, 58 1/2- 60 Union St

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Nathan & Yessenia Patrick & Yesenia Torres, Sandy Duran, $420,000, 52 Oakside Ave

Eduardo Brea, Madelyn Gonzalez & Maribel Villa, $370,000, 140 Hancock St

Austin & Melissa Carroll, El Mero Hole LLC, $335,000, 275 Essex St

Gregory Freitas, Ricardo Venture, $300,000, 97 Groton St Unit C

Luis Rios, Gerardo Maldonado, $295,000, 439 Hampshire St

Santos Lopez, Orlando Gonzalez, $289,209, 179-183 Jackson St

Yeladim Realty Tr & Dana Cohen Tr, Mary & Christopher Baril, $270,000, 9B Hobson St Unit A

Rosewood Nominee Tr & Joseph Rooney Tr, Yesmarie Castillo, $190,000, 272 East Haverhill St Unit 23

Thomas Crowley, Wissam & Marlyse Daaboul, $170,000, 262 E Haverhill St Unit 11

Yudelka Reyes, Kasey Taveras, $527,000, 48-50 Stearns Ave

METHUEN

Triple G Property LLC, 46 Old Ferry Road LLC, $7,200,000, 46 Old Ferry Rd

Timothy & Bonnie Brown, Christopher & Lindsay Reed, $956,000, 6 Patrick Way

Steven & Donna Lizotte, Elizabeth Goldstein, $860,000, 83 Pine Tree Dr Unit 68

John & Kathleen Coppola, Richtsmeier Tr & Steven & Heather Richtsmeier Tr, $780,000, 36 Pine Tree Dr Unit 24

Toll Ma Land III LP, Henry & Susan Zabatta, $761,285, 28 Phoebe St Unit 107

Catherine & David Ferguson, Michael & Catherine Gibbon, $760,000, 48 Hill St

Melhem & Eileen Salhab, Samuel Chery & Marie Belizaire, $740,000, 11 Balmoral Dr

Christopher & Andrea Incollingo, Dulce Espejo & Augusto Mejia, $720,000, 12-14 Wayside Ave

Toll Ma Land III LP, Michael & Susan Burns, $719,413, 26 Phoebe St Unit 108

Martin Correa & Roxana Alix, Carolin Tejeda & Juana Gonzaelz & Luis Mateo, $660,000, 150-152 Center St

Sarah & Walter Dedrick Jr, Nich & Paru Patel & Nirzeri Dave, $650,111, 7 Fox Run Ln

James Rigoli & Sandra Luongo Est, Martello Realty Tr & Mary Martello Tr, $650,000, 12 Ashley Ln Unit 41

Elizabeth Kramer, Bliving LLC, $650,000, 6 Fox Run Ln

Sereigo- Wareing Tr & James Sereigo-Wareing Tr, Rebecca Deleon, $638,000, 139 Howe St

George Martin, Caraigh Lebrun & Karina Soto, $630,000, 50-52 Mystic St

Lisbeth Celado, Yovani Martinez, $630,000, 16 Central St

Helen Seccareccio, Progresso LLC, $599,900, 135 Jackson St

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Goldman Realty Tr & Richard Asoian Tr, Raquel Munoz, $590,000, 191 Woodburn Dr

Avola Family 2015 Revocable Tr & Cologera, Charles, & Rita Avola Tr, Nicholas Dicenso Tr & 22 Herrick Drive Realty Tr, $590,000, 22 Herrick Dr Unit 55

Brian & Allison Souza & Allison Vaillancourt, Sebastian Saronge, $585,000, 10 Pine Grove Ave

Runci Family Revocable Tr & John Runci Tr, Sully Baez & Carmelo Nunez, $580,000, 74 Merrimack Rd

Wendy Mejia, Yara Mejia, $580,000, 8 Brown Ct

Albidalia Vargas & Felix Rodriguez, Jacqueline & Agenol Horton Jr, $580,000, 99 East St

Glaude Realty Tr & Marilyn Glaude Tr, Jennifer Ramos & Pedro Cortes, $575,000, 54 Hampshire St

Heidi & Christian Padilla, Alexandre & Alyssa Gowing, $570,000, 41 Stoney Brook Rd

Stephen J Emery Living Tr & Rose M Emery Living Tr & Rose & Stephen Emery Tr , Erinson Vasquez & Eric Perez, $570,000, 65 Adams Ave

James Jajuga Jr, Jeova Leal, $565,000, 142 Forest St

Shirley & Natalie Perez & Natalie Pagan, Carlos Jaquez & Carmn Garcia, $550,000, 17 Hampton St

Christopher Godbout, Walter Kiezl & Carolyn Toto, $550,000, 117 Vermont St

Thay Hoac & Luan Nham, Sixto Figueroa, $548,000, 22 Ormonde Rd

Sara Correia & Melissa Carlan & Joyce Demers , Luz Villarreal, $545,000, 31 Louise Ave

Shannon Mccallion & William Licata Jr, Gary & Ashley Famiglietti, $535,000, 3 Falmouth St

Terence Moynihan, Marcos Almonte & Jessica Matias, $530,000, 2 Rivers Edge Pl

Darren & Kimberly Coco, Fadel Antypas, $522,500, 22 Sevoian Dr

Yara & Jairon Mejia, Rober Medina & Alba Castillo, $520,000, 5 Ashford St

Yolanda Lopez, Benny & Leslie Montanez, $510,000, 10 Edgar St

Laila Alasmar & Laila & Rami Amin, Yonice Blake-Shand & Earnest Shand, $505,000, 36 Rossi St Unit 36

Christopher & Margarate Lefebvre, Delia & Delis Gautreaux, $500,000, 42 Currier St

Kama Azzi, Tony & Lieu Nguyen, $500,000, 311 Lowell St

Nancy Lagana, Kathleen Rafferty, $490,000, 10 Heather Dr Unit 11

Kimberly Swift, Christopher Fernandes, $490,000, 3 Orchard St

Sheila & James Collings & Riyez Karim, Maylen De Paiz & Elder Tejada, $485,000, 7 Hilltop Rd

Fakhr Uddin & Mohua Sultana, Antonio Guzman & Nicolasa Bamaca & Rafael Lopez, $480,000, 3 Green St

Joan Sneed, Sika Chau & Thanh Tran, $455,000, 20 Annette St

Rachel Petralia & Veronica Marion & Andrew Guertin, N & J Properties LLC, $440,000, 25 Piedmont

Wanda Palacio & Belquis Guerrero Est, Dennis Nguyen & Huong Vo, $430,000, 1 Maplewood Ave Unit A

Thomas & Brenda Gregg, Darline Vasquez & Pablo Paulino, $430,000, 19 Webb St

Arthur Broadhurst, Anna Giasson & Susan Martin, $425,000, 71 Ames St

Catherine Gray Est & Thomas Gray Jr, Carlos Cruz, $425,000, 190 East St

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Debra Nealon, Fernanda Pereira, $408,000, 10 Ridge Rd

Sixto Lara, Wanda Bobadilla, $400,000, 93 Haverhill St

Dennis & Elizabeth Foley, Ivelisse Batista, $400,000, 53 Railroad St

James Landry Jr, Tanya Willcox & Heath Bailey, $380,000, 45 Washington St Unit 99

Frank & Angela Quinto, Helen Seccareccio, $370,000, 1 Lauren Ct Unit 64

Breandon/Alisha tr & Breandon & Alisha Martino Tr, Jairy Vargas, $360,000, 34 Linwood Ave

Raquel Munoz, Bree & Benjamin Canner, $340,000, 21 Bentley Cir Unit 7

James Long Jr & Janine Burns, Thomas & Nancy Hardin, $324,900, 10 Arlington St

Sisi Zhou & Yue Zhao, Catherine Gathura, $310,000, 19 Hampshire St Unit 301

Renee Howley & Allan Howley Est, Rafic Saadi, $289,900, 37 Maplewood Ave

EK LLC, Ashley Bibbo, $265,000, 23 Hampshire Rd Unit 114

Charlene & David Newell, Judith Lombard, $262,000, 1 Ashley Ln Unit 50

Russell Richardson , Covest Properties LLC, $250,000, 175 Old Ferry Rd

Robert Celeste, Jude Jennings, $218,000, 46 Ashford St Unit 8

Pacific Premier Trust Custodian & Arthur Broadhurst, Jowamar Companies LLC, $200,000, 52 Osgood St

James Jacobs , Yanis Gondre, $199,900, 40 Danbury Dr Unit 6

Miguel Colon, Sabrina Lambros, $195,000, 375 Merrimack St Unit 19

Caitlin Devine & Caitlin Skinner, 9 Danbury Drive LLC, $165,000, 20 Danbury Dr unit 20-9

Toll Ma Land III LP, Donna Taylor, $772,031, 30 Phoebe St Unit 106

Paula & Robert Jalbert Jr, Brian & Marianne Pereira, $740,000, 726 Lowell St

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Jillian Brown Revocable Tr & Jillian Brown Tr, Olguen Hyppolite & Rithna Cassamajor, $699,900, 2 Pheasant Hill Ln

George Realty LLC, John & kathleen Coppolla, $675,000, 24 Rebecca Way Unit 3

Iris Hernandez Est & Irene & Cesar Hernandez, Anilda Baez & Sixto Baez Collardo, $665,000, 10 Brown St

Jennifer H Tardie Revocable Tr & Jennifer Tardie Tr, Luc & Mariam Elie, $640,000, 88 Cross St

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Robert Zarella, Benjamin Tavares, $525,000, 14 Heather Dr Unit 13

Karen Tkacs & Karen & Antoine Jones, Johnson St Felix & Esther Paul, $513,700, 52 Meriline Ave

Q&G Development LLC, Melina Beaudoin & Jeannette Chevalier, $490,000, 10 Brookdale Ave

Gretchen Cerasuolo, Michael & Elizabet Scammon, $453,000, 7 Longview Ter

Midtown Services LLC, David & Donna Shaw, $303,500, 35 Webb St

Steven & Linda Scionti, Julie & Ryan Tankersley, $294,000, 945 Riverside Dr Unit 29A

NORTH ANDOVER

Robert Gropman, Mark & Robin Hartnett, $1,550,000, 400 Bear Hill Rd

Angela & Ali Mandalinci, Ivett Lafave & Arthur Lafave Jr, $1,350,000, 99 Ogunquit Rd

Jacqueline K Comiskey 2010 Revocable Tr & Jacqueline Comiskey Tr, Jesan Ataharul & Ataharul Islam, $1,325,000, 64 Campion Rd

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James & Jillian Buckley, Caroline & Andrew Holstein, $975,000, 83 Old Farm Rd

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LCD Family Trust of February 22 2021 & Chad & Christopher Downer Tr, Rachel & Marcel Cuffy, $785,000, 340 Foster St

MAMFT Realty Tr LLC, Daniel Abrahamson & Lauren Waslick, $764,900, 15-17 Phillips Ct

JY Realty Tr II & John Shagoury & Yvonne Ciardiello Tr, Kervin Presley & Syha Pheng, $759,000, 83-85 Waverly Rd

Sarah & Patrick Harrington, Mohammad Islam & Jannatual Firdous, $750,000, 37 Cotuit St Unit 2

Kolby & Alanna Martineau, Angelique Muschette, $730,000, 22 Bucklin Rd

Patricia Mccrudden & Sheila Bennett, Marco & Molly Sanchez, $650,000, 795 Johnson St

Varatharajan Venkatraman & Renuka Janarthanan, Aditi Sinha, $640,000, 24 Compass Point Rd Unit P1

Van Der Meeren Living Tr & Regina Van Der Meeren Tr, Rustyn & Megan Goff, $635,000, 2304 Juniper Cir Unit 2304

Essex Black Realty Tr & Deborah Leblanc Tr, David & Linda Walker, $585,000, 9 Princeton St

Scalera Family Tr & Rosemary & Richard Scalera Tr, Kristen Comeau, $585,000, 8 Millpond

Louise Perry, Sara Hrono, $560,000, 6 Berkeley Rd

Ahsan Munir & Sana Shaik, Joseph & Lisa Williams, $555,000, 2 Nadine Ln

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Mary Ellen Langdon, Melissa & Joseph Nasta, $470,000, 58 Park St

Jeffrey Parfenchuck & Darcie Volk Family Tr & Darcie Volk Tr & Jeffrey Parfenchuck Tr, Aashish Radhakrishnan & Arundhati Nair, $432,500, 1 Harvest Dr Unit 305

Dino & Marisa Difrtonzo, Angela Addonizio, $410,000, 2 Harvest Dr Unit 112

Kathleen Ward, James Landry, $410,000, 3 Harwich St Unit R

Rachel Azer & Rachel & Marcel Cuffy, Rachel Eustis & Matthews Campos, $408,000, 35 Wood Ave Unit L

Julie M Lynch Tr & Marianne Linehan Tr, Amy Martin, $399,953, 3 Harvest Dr Unit 201

Leonard & Beverly Shuman, Ghita Amrani-Hanchi & Bilal Ali, $395,000, 2 Harvest Dr Unit 108

1009 Osgood Street LLC, Armaun Group LLC, $390,000, 1009 Osgood St Unit 6

Mark Gifford, Kyle & Jacqueline Moore, $374,900, 14 Millpond

Michal Furbush, Chun Wan & Yan Fong, $365,000, 5 Village Green Dr Unit 20

Corcoran Revocable Living Tr of 2019 & Walter Corcoran Tr, Wellerson De Almeida, $360,000, 120 Edgelawn Ave Unit 9

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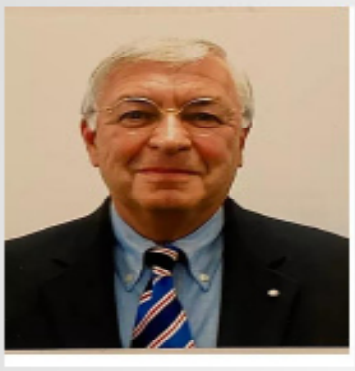

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- Expand health services emphasizing resources for mental health.
- Provide opportunities for development and progress to our young people.
- Improve conditions in our public schools and universities.
- Provide funds for services to the elderly.

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YE GAY O'LE VALLEY: Man in the Mirror I Will Not Become Them

Dani B. Langevin
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

At the start of the summer, I decided to begin a social experiment for this column. I'm 58 and have been out of the closet for almost 30 years. I have heard every homophobic and stereotypical remark, accusation, or false pieces of information about the LGBTQIA community there is. I have told countless people how it makes me, and other members of this community feel and the danger it puts us in. We've explained how these words give license to more homophobic rhetoric, homophobic abuse/hate crimes and death. We've screamed it from the top of our lungs to stop and yet some people don't. We are met with comment like, "Give me a @#$%ing break," or "WHAAA I'M ABUSED BY THE TRUTH. WHAAA I'M A VICTIM." Both statements were made to me in an email from the owner of this paper when I told him that his comment on how he found my column on Women's Health Rights "hilarious" was hurtful and abusive. He also told me that he, "Hates everything I stand for." So, I decided to use the same words and anger toward a certain demographic to see what their reaction would be.

To see what would happen if the tables were turned, I began writing and posting very inflammatory and false statements about straight, white men. My community members have been referred to as pedophiles so, I referenced white, straight men to rapists. Lesbians, I've heard, hate children. I said that men loved their guns more than their children. I stated that they all want women in the kitchen and pregnant and alluded that they wanted the LGBTQIA community exterminated and that if we allow them to continue with their agenda, they will destroy America. It's much like being told that we have a secret "gay agenda" and we're grooming children to be gay to take over America. If we are sex crazed abhorrations, men must be sex crazed misogynists. I particularly like, "Being gay is a choice." Okay then, be gay. Be gay right now. The reaction from those who did and didn't know me was swift and fierce yet, nobody saw the hypocrisy.

People who have known me for years and decades thought these were my true feelings. Words have power. Actions seem to have little. We saw this on January 6 when words caused an insurrection but some refuse to acknowledge the impact of each. The gaslighting and fear that many on the right exercise, would be laughable if it wasn't so hysterically insane and destructive to individual liberty and the "American way."

Men have enslaved, raped, beaten, traveled to foreign lands, and engaged in massive human trafficking, slaughtered endless cultures under the guise of, "life and liberty and God's will." We're not patriotic if we are gay, female, or anything but white, straight and male. Anyone but white, straight men and their beliefs are a threat to the "American Way" and "Christian Values." There are 98 million non-Christians in the US. Stop pushing your agenda on us or we'll ramp up the "Gay Agenda." Another gaslighting tactic by the right to make it sound like we're all congregating in the backstage of a drag queen show, making confetti crockpot bombs along with conversion machines for your children. And why do they fear that? Because it's exactly what some on the right do-get together and create ways to destroy other people's lives when they don't remotely spill into yours. They are so afraid of being treated like they have treated everyone else that they must destroy them first. Here's a little tip, we don't think about you until you get up in our face. We don't care about your sex life, your marriage status, who you cheat on your spouse with (you know you do) or the fact that heterosexuality is shoved down our throats everywhere we turn and yet, we don't whine and cry and say, "Stop! You're going to turn us straight!" Because it can't and won't happen. Just like we can't turn you gay. If you're afraid of that then you should really do some deep introspection. I'm never "afraid" of turning straight because it can't happen. And with every dismissal, with every attack on our very humanity you all show what shallow and egregious creatures you all are. You're not people. You're not Americans. You're not being patriotic or Godly. You're bleeding your entitlement and white privilege all over the American flag.

So, what have I learned? Words are incredibly powerful and can cause dangerous and destructive actions. Anyone who dismisses you when you tell them that their words are damaging has no intention of listening, learning, or growing. It is incredibly easy to become your enemy and then become your own enemy. In other words, while pretending to act as my adversaries do, I had to become them. Once I did, it consumed me and I became my own adversary: an ugly, accusatory, close-minded, purposefully hateful person. I didn't like the woman in the mirror, so I broke it. I will not become those that hide behind the flag and say they are protecting the American way when what they are really doing is destroying the American dream for anyone but themselves. I will not become them. ◊

REAL ESTATE: FROM PAGE 29

US Bank N A Tr, GM Flips LLC, $339,000, 30 Troy Rd

Arthur Guthri & Lindsay Grazio, Deborah Applin, $325,000, 13 Walker Rd Unit 2

Brian Mcgettrick, Krista Jansons, $311,123, 148 Main St Unit F 341

Jason Mahir & Yossri Kairlis, Molly Lonergan & Joshua Brown, $307,000, 4 Fernview Ave Unit 3

Sergey & Yekaterina Nevar, Macdelena Ba, $300,000, 88 Edgelawn Ave Unit 12

Navin & Ritu Dewagan, Marie & Kevin Rayner, $290,000, 1 Walker Rd Unit 4

Donna & Glenn Thomson, Daniel Miller, $225,000, 28 Fernview Ave Unit 9

Stephen & Becky Desimone, Brenley Properties LLC, $218,000, 52 Farrwood Ave Unit 2

Haines-Lma Realty Tr & William Haines Tr & Rebecca Stevens, Rodney & Elizabeth Lippold, $70,000, 280 Holt Rd Unit 4

Megan W Warner Revocable Trust of 2007 & Jay & Megan Warner Tr, David & Erin Coates, $1,615,000, 29 Anne Rd

Labusa Inc, 203 Turnpike G1 LLC, $540,000, 203 Turnpike St Unit G1

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WOMEN: FROM PAGE 25

workers are at the vanguard of ruining young people's lives at children's hospitals that push giving young people puberty-blocking hormones and opposite-gender hormones, performing hysterectomies and mastectomies on healthy girls who say they are boys, and chemically or physically castrating healthy boys who say they are girls.

Women are at the vanguard of perverting the medical profession by advocating the teaching of woke ideologies in medical schools, placing these ideologies on an equal footing with medical education.

Last week an organization called Physicians for Reproductive Health published an open letter to the nation's reporters and news editors, demanding they censor anti-abortion activists: "We are asking for a commitment from the community of media outlets reporting on abortion to keep in mind the true danger that you present when interviewing anti-abortion extremists. You are giving the opportunity for dangerous lies to spread."

As regards the demand that news outlets censor pro-life individuals and groups, the open letter was signed by more than 600 medical doctors and other health care professionals. Nearly every signatory was a woman. And all four of the listed leaders of Physicians for Reproductive Health are women.

Women clergy have been at the vanguard of pushing Christianity and Judaism to the left, leaving mainstream churches and synagogues increasingly empty. Of course, the increasingly feminized male clergy go along with their female colleagues.

And women are disproportionately supportive of cancel culture, the greatest threat to free speech in American history.

It should go without saying, but it's undoubtedly necessary to note that there are many women doing great, even heroic, things for our society, and that many men are working to wreck it. But for those who associate women with instinctively protecting children or with being supportive of a traditionally religious life, this era in American history has provided something of a shock.

This column was originally posted on Townhall.com.

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